How often is a random quantum state *k*-entangled?

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Abstract

The set of trace-preserving, positive maps acting on density matrices of size
d forms a convex body. We investigate its nested subsets consisting of k-
positive maps, where $k = 2, \ldots, d$. Working with the measure induced by
the Hilbert–Schmidt distance we derive asymptotically tight bounds for the
volumes of these sets. Our results strongly suggest that the inner set of $(k + 1)$
-positive maps forms a small fraction of the outer set of k-positive maps. These
results are related to analogous bounds for the relative volume of the sets of
k-entangled states describing a bipartite $d \times d$ system.

PACS numbers: 03.65.Aa, 03.67.Mn, 02.40.Ft

1. Introduction

The structure of the set of entangled quantum states is a subject of vivid scientific interest
in view of possible applications in the theory of quantum information processing. However,
even in the simplest case of systems composed of two subsystems only, several basic problems
related to the phenomenon of quantum entanglement remain unsolved. For instance, efficiently
computable sufficient and necessary conditions for separability of an arbitrary quantum state
were established only in the case of four- and six-dimensional Hilbert spaces $\mathbb{C}^4 = \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2$
and $\mathbb{C}^6 = \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^3$.

In higher dimensions, several conditions are known which imply the property of quantum
entanglement [1]. Unfortunately, these tools are not universal and even in the case of a 3×3
system there exist quantum states, the entanglement of which cannot be diagnosed with the
general criteria currently available. The structure of the set of separable states is thus not well
understood, and its geometry is still a subject of recent studies [2–4].

The complexity of the set of quantum states for a $d \times d$ system increases quickly with the
dimension. For $d \geqslant 3$ it is useful to distinguish different degrees of quantum entanglement.
A state ρ, represented by a Hermitian, positive semi-definite matrix with unit trace (density

matrix or density operator), is called *separable*, or 1-*entangled*, if it belongs to the convex hull of the set of product states [5]. More generally, for $1 \leqslant k \leqslant d$, one introduces the set of k-entangled states, the states with Schmidt rank not larger than k [6] (see section 2 for a precise definition). Any k-entangled state belongs by definition to the larger set of $(k + 1)$-entangled states and, in this convention, the set of d-entangled states coincides with the set of all states of a bi-partite, $d \times d$ system.

For large d, the set of separable mixed states of a bipartite, $d \times d$ system is known to cover only a small fraction of the entire body of mixed states of size d^2. Asymptotically sharp estimates for these ratios are known and bounds for the radius of the maximal ball inscribed into the set of separable mixed states were obtained, both in the bipartite and multipartite cases [7–14]. The ratio between these volumes depends additionally on the measure used [15–18].

The structure of the set of states of a composite, bi-partite system is closely related to the properties of the set of linear maps that send the convex body of normalized mixed states of a mono-partite system into itself. A map is called *positive* if any positive (semi-definite) matrix is mapped onto a positive matrix. If $k \geqslant 1$, a map Φ is called *k-positive* if the extended map $\Phi \otimes \mathcal{I}_k$ is positive (here $\mathcal{I}_k$ is the identity map on $\mathcal{M}_k$, the space of $k \times k$ matrices). A map Φ is *completely positive* (CP) if the extended map is positive for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$. Note that if a map $\Phi : \mathcal{M}_d \to \mathcal{M}_d$ is d-positive, it is also completely positive [19], and so only the range $1 \leqslant k \leqslant d$ is of interest. In general, the characterization of a set of k-positive maps is not easy [20, 21], and the geometry of the set of maps acting on $\mathcal{M}_d$ is nontrivial even in the simplest case of $d = 2$ [2, 22].

The correspondence between the sets of quantum maps and quantum states can be made precise due to the Choi–Jamiołkowski isomorphism: the set of trace-preserving, completely positive maps acting on $\mathcal{M}_d$ is isomorphic with the set of these bi-partite states from $\mathcal{M}_{d^2}$, for which the partial trace over one (say, the second) subsystem is proportional to the identity matrix [23, 24]. Furthermore, the (larger) set of k-positive maps is the dual of the set of k-superpositive maps (see section 3 for details and fine points). These maps, also called k-entanglement breaking channels, correspond by the Choi–Jamiołkowski isomorphism to k-entangled states of a bipartite system [21, 25]. Thus, investigating relations between sets of maps of different degree of positivity, one can establish the properties of the subsets of $\mathcal{M}_{d^2}$ characterized by different classes of quantum entanglement [21, 26], and vice versa.

One of the main objects of this work is to derive bounds for the volume radius of the convex body of trace-preserving, k-positive maps acting on a d-dimensional system. We are working with respect to the Hilbert–Schmidt measure, induced by the Euclidean (Hilbert–Schmidt, or Frobenius) distance in the space of quantum maps. These results allow us to estimate the ratio of the volumes of the different sets. In large dimension, one finds that the property of 'additional degrees of positivity' is very rare. While our methods allow us only to compare the set of k-positive maps with that of ak-positive maps, where $a > 1$ is a universal constant (independent of k, d, but possibly not so small), the results obtained strongly suggest that the set of $(k + 1)$-positive maps occupies only a small part of the larger set of k-positive maps, with the trend particularly pronounced for small k's.

To arrive at these conclusions, we study first the volumes of the nested sets of k-entangled states of a $d \times d$ bi-partite system, with $k = 1, 2, \ldots, d$. The ratio of these volumes can be used to estimate the probability that a random quantum density matrix of a bipartite system distributed according to the Hilbert–Schmidt measure [27] is k-entangled. Of special importance is the case $k = 2$, as knowledge about the set of 2-entangled states is crucial for problems related to the distillation of quantum entanglement [28]. It would be of substantial interest to rigorously show that, for large dimension d, the set of 2-entangled states is small in comparison to the set of 3-entangled states, but large with respect to the set of separable states.

This work is organized as follows. In the next section we introduce some necessary definitions involving the sets of trace-preserving, *k*-positive maps and the set of normalized, *k*-entangled states of a bi-partite system. The duality relations between convex cones and tools used to estimate volumes of dual sets are discussed in section 3. The main results of this paper are obtained in section 4, where we derive sharp two-sided estimates (in (18) and (21)) for the volume radius of the set of normalized *k*-entangled states and related parameters, and deduce various consequences of these estimates. A summary of the results obtained and a discussion is presented in section 5.

2. Trace-preserving, *k*-positive maps and normalized *k*-entangled states: concepts and notation

In this section we recall necessary definitions and introduce notation used throughout the paper.

If $\mathcal{H}$ is a Hilbert space, we will denote by $|\cdot|$ its norm and by $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ the space of bounded linear operators on $\mathcal{H}$. Most often we will have $\mathcal{H} = \mathbb{C}^d$ for some $d \in \mathbb{N}$; then operators are just matrices and we will write $\mathcal{M}_d$ for $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{C}^d)$. We will generally use the Dirac bra-ket notation, but in some contexts we will employ the (more common in the functional analysis literature) symbols $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ and $(\cdot, \cdot)$ for the scalar product.

Transformations that are discrete in time can be described by linear *quantum maps*, or *super-operators*, $\Phi : \mathcal{M}_d \to \mathcal{M}_d$ (or, more generally, $\Phi : \mathcal{M}_{d_1} \to \mathcal{M}_{d_2}$). A map is called *positive* (or *positivity preserving*) if every positive (semi-definite) operator is mapped onto a positive operator.

Let $1 \leqslant k \leqslant d$. A map $\Phi : \mathcal{M}_d \to \mathcal{M}_d$ is called *k-positive* if the extended map $\Phi \otimes \mathcal{I}_k : \mathcal{M}_d \otimes \mathcal{M}_k \to \mathcal{M}_d \otimes \mathcal{M}_k$ is positive, where $\mathcal{I}_k$ is the identity map on $\mathcal{M}_k$. The set of *k*-positive maps on $\mathcal{M}_d$ is a convex cone and will be denoted by $\mathcal{P}_k(\mathcal{M}_d)$.

A map Φ is *k*-positive iff the Choi matrix $C_\Phi = \sum_{i,j=1}^d E_{ij} \otimes \Phi(E_{ij})$ is *k-block positive*, i.e. if

$$\left\langle C_\Phi \left(\sum_{i=1}^k u_i \otimes v_i \right), \sum_{j=1}^k u_j \otimes v_j \right\rangle \geqslant 0 \tag{1}$$

for all $u_i, v_j \in \mathbb{C}^d$, $1 \leqslant i, j \leqslant d$ (see, e.g., [21]). Thus, we can identify the cone $\mathcal{P}_k(\mathcal{M}_d)$ via the Jamiołkowski–Choi isomorphism $\Phi \to C_\Phi$ with the cone of *k*-block positive operators on $\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d$,

$$\mathcal{P}_k(\mathcal{M}_d) \sim \mathcal{BP}_k(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d).$$

As is apparent from condition (1), the cone $\mathcal{BP}_k(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)$ is dual to the cone of *k*-entangled operators on $\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d$, i.e. to

$$\mathrm{Ent}_k(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d) = \mathrm{conv}\left(\left\{ |\xi\rangle\langle\xi| \ : \ \xi = \sum_{j=1}^k u_j \otimes v_j, \ u_j, v_j \in \mathbb{C}^d \text{ for } j = 1, \ldots, k \right\} \right). \tag{2}$$

Vectors of the form $\xi = \sum_{j=1}^k u_j \otimes v_j$ will be called *k-entangled*. Observe that the special case of $k = 1$ coincides with the definition of separable (product) matrices or vectors.

A map $\Phi : \mathcal{M}_d \to \mathcal{M}_d$ is said to be *k-superpositive* if its Choi matrix C_Φ is *k*-entangled. This turns out to be equivalent to the existence of a Kraus representation $\Phi(\rho) = \sum_i A_i^\dagger \rho A_i$, of Φ such that all the operators A_i are of rank smaller than or equal to *k* [21]. We denote
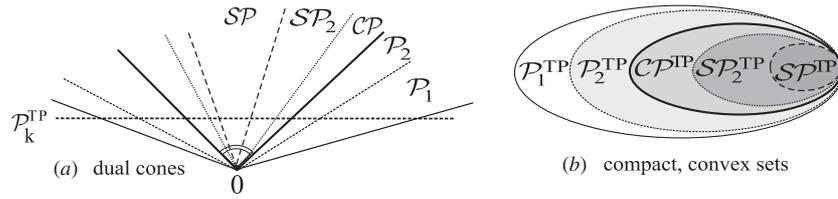
Figure 1. Sketch of sets of maps for the case $d = 3$. (*a*) The convex cone $\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{P}_1$ of positive maps includes the cone $\mathcal{P}_2$ of 2-positive maps and its subcone $\mathcal{P}_3$ containing the 3-positive maps, which in the case of $d = 3$ coincides with the set $\mathcal{CP}$ of completely positive maps. It includes the dual sets of superpositive maps $\mathcal{SP}_2$ and $\mathcal{SP} = \mathcal{SP}_1$. (*b*) The cross section of the cones with the hyperplane corresponding to the trace-preserving condition yields a sequence of nested convex bodies, $\mathcal{P}_k^{\mathrm{TP}}$, the volumes of which we aim to estimate.

the convex cone of k-superpositive maps on $\mathcal{M}_d$ by $\mathcal{SP}_k(\mathcal{M}_d)$. As before, we have the identification

$$\mathcal{SP}_k(\mathcal{M}_d) \sim \mathrm{Ent}_k(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)$$

and, in the appropriate sense, the cones of maps $\mathcal{P}_k(\mathcal{M}_d)$ and $\mathcal{SP}_k(\mathcal{M}_d)$ are dual to each other. Note that $\mathcal{SP}_d(\mathcal{M}_d) = \mathcal{P}_d(\mathcal{M}_d) = \mathcal{CP}(\mathcal{M}_d)$, the convex cone of completely positive maps, while for an arbitrary $k \in \mathbb{N}$, we have $\mathcal{SP}_k(\mathcal{M}_d) \subset \mathcal{CP}(\mathcal{M}_d) \subset \mathcal{P}_k(\mathcal{M}_d)$.

If we are interested in quantum *states*, or density matrices, we impose the normalization $\mathrm{tr}\,\rho = 1$. In other words, we are then investigating the base of the corresponding cone, which we will denote by a superscript '1'. Thus, in particular,

$$\mathrm{Ent}_k^1(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d) = \mathrm{Ent}_k(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d) \cap \{M \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d) : \mathrm{tr}\,M = 1\} \qquad (3)$$

is the set of *k-entangled states* on $\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d$. These will be the primary objects of our analysis. One similarly defines the dual object $\mathcal{BP}_k^1(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)$ of normalized k-block positive operators, which are not necessarily states as they may not be positive semidefinite.

On the other hand, when we are interested in quantum *maps*, the *trace-preserving* constraint 'tr $\Phi(\rho) = \mathrm{tr}\rho$ for $\rho \in \mathcal{M}_d$' (or, dually, the *unital* constraint) is more appropriate. This will be indicated by a superscript 'TP', for example,

$$\mathcal{P}_k^{\mathrm{TP}}(\mathcal{M}_d) = \mathcal{P}_k \cap \{\Phi : \mathcal{M}_d \to \mathcal{M}_d \ : \ \forall\,\rho \in \mathcal{M}_d \ \mathrm{tr}\,\Phi(\rho) = \mathrm{tr}\,\rho\} \qquad (4)$$

is the (convex) set of k-positive, trace-preserving maps and similarly for $\mathcal{SP}_k^{\mathrm{TP}}(\mathcal{M}_d)$. Note that, under the identifications indicated above,

$$\mathcal{SP}_k^{\mathrm{TP}}(\mathcal{M}_d) \subset d\,\mathrm{Ent}_k^1(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{P}_k^{\mathrm{TP}}(\mathcal{M}_d) \subset d\,\mathcal{BP}_k^1(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d). \qquad (5)$$

The inclusions are proper for $d > 1$ since the unit trace condition involves just one scalar constraint, while the trace-preserving condition leads to d^2 independent scalar constraints.

We now focus our attention on the set $\mathrm{Ent}_k^1(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)$ of k-entangled states. From definitions (2) and (3), one concludes that it is the convex hull of the set of *pure k-entangled* states

$$\mathrm{Ent}_k^P(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d) =: \{|\xi\rangle\langle\xi| \ : \ \xi \ \text{is} \ k\text{-entangled}, |\xi| = 1\}. \qquad (6)$$

In other words, this set consists of projections onto one-dimensional subspaces of $\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d$ spanned by k-entangled vectors. It will also be convenient to assign a symbol to the set of *vectors* appearing in (6). We set

$$\mathrm{Ent}_k^V(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d) = \left\{\xi = \sum_{j=1}^k u_j \otimes v_j \ : \ u_j, v_j \in \mathbb{C}^d \ \text{for} \ j = 1, \dots, k, |\xi| = 1\right\}.$$

Note that the sets Ent_k^P and Ent_k^V 'live' in different spaces: while the former is a subset of $\mathrm{Ent}_k^1(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d) \subset \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d))$, the latter is a subset of the sphere of $\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d$. We will elaborate on this difference in section 4.

The tensor product $\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d$ can be canonically identified with the space of $d \times d$ matrices $\mathcal{M}_d$, or with the space of operators on $\mathbb{C}^d$, via the map induced by

$$u \otimes v \rightarrow |u\rangle\langle v|. \tag{7}$$

(To be precise, operators on $\mathbb{C}^d$ correspond *canonically* to the tensor product $\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \overline{\mathbb{C}^d}$, but we will not dwell on this distinction.) Under this identification, the set Ent_k^V corresponds to the set of operators on $\mathbb{C}^d$ whose rank is at most k, normalized in the Hilbert–Schmidt norm. In the following we will tend to not distinguish carefully between these sets, and between tensors and operators.

Since every $\xi \in \mathrm{Ent}_k^V$ admits a Schmidt decomposition, we also have

$$\mathrm{Ent}_k^V(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d) = \left\{ \xi \ : \ \xi = \sum_{j=1}^{k} s_j u_j \otimes v_j \right\},$$

where (u_j) and (v_j) are orthonormal sequences in $\mathbb{C}^d$ and $s_j \geqslant 0$ with $\sum_{j=1}^{k} s_j^2 = 1$.

Our purpose is to give two-sided estimates for various geometric parameters (such as the volume radius or the mean width) of the convex sets $\mathrm{Ent}_k^1(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)$, $\mathcal{P}_k^{\mathrm{TP}}(\mathcal{M}_d)$ and $\mathcal{SP}_k^{\mathrm{TP}}(\mathcal{M}_d)$. Our approach will be to study first the set $\mathrm{Ent}_k^V(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)$, and then to deduce the needed estimates for the remaining sets.

3. Duality relations and generalities on volume radii

In this section we recall the duality relations between the sets of k-positive maps and k-superpositive maps. Due to the classical Urysohn and Santaló inequalities, and to the relatively more recent inverse Santaló inequality, duality allows us to relate estimates for the volumes of the convex bodies of appropriately normalized trace-preserving, k-positive maps, k-superpositive maps and the corresponding sets of k-entangled states.

3.1. Dual cones and dual sets

Let $\mathcal{C}$ be a (closed convex) cone in a real inner product space $\mathcal{K}$ and $\mathcal{C}^*$ be the dual cone, i.e.

$$\mathcal{C}^* = \{y \in \mathcal{K} : \langle y, x \rangle \geqslant 0 \ \text{for all} \ x \in \mathcal{C}\}.$$

As was already indicated above, we have the following duality relation for our cones of interest:

$$\mathcal{BP}_k(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d) = (\mathrm{Ent}_k(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d))^*, \tag{8}$$

where the ambient inner product space is the Hermitian part of $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)$ endowed with the Hilbert–Schmidt scalar product $\langle A, B \rangle_{\mathrm{HS}} := \mathrm{tr} AB^\dagger$ (which in the present context is just $\mathrm{tr} AB$ since B is Hermitian), and similarly

$$\mathcal{SP}_k(\mathcal{M}_d) = (\mathcal{P}_k(\mathcal{M}_d))^*, \tag{9}$$

where the duality for maps is defined via their Choi matrices [2, 19] by

$$(\Phi, \Psi) := \langle C_\Phi, C_\Psi \rangle_{\mathrm{HS}}.$$

Since for closed convex cones we have the bipolar theorem $(\mathcal{C}^*)^* = \mathcal{C}$, the roles of the cones in (8) and (9) can be exchanged.

It is elementary but not very well known that the duality of cones passes to duality $^\circ$ (polarity) of *bases* of cones. Here $^\circ$ is the standard polar defined by $K^\circ = \{x : \langle x, y \rangle \leqslant 1 \text{ for all } y \in K\}$. (In particular, if K is the unit ball in some norm, K° is the unit ball in the dual norm.) Let $\mathcal{C} \subset \mathcal{K}$ be a closed convex cone and let $e \in \mathcal{C} \cap \mathcal{C}^*$ be a unit vector. Put $V^{\mathrm{b}} := \{x \in \mathcal{K} : \langle x, e \rangle = 1\}$ and let $\mathcal{C}^{\mathrm{b}} = \mathcal{C} \cap V^{\mathrm{b}}$ be the base of the cone $\mathcal{C}$. Making use of lemma 1 from [26] one obtains a relation

$$(\mathcal{C}^*)^{\mathrm{b}} := \mathcal{C}^* \cap V^{\mathrm{b}} = \{y \in V^{\mathrm{b}} : \forall x \in \mathcal{C}^{\mathrm{b}} \ \langle -(y - e), x - e \rangle \leqslant 1\}. \tag{10}$$

If we think of V^{b} as a vector space with the origin at e, and of $\mathcal{C}^{\mathrm{b}}$ and $(\mathcal{C}^*)^{\mathrm{b}}$ as subsets of that vector space, then $(\mathcal{C}^*)^{\mathrm{b}} = -(\mathcal{C}^{\mathrm{b}})^\circ$.

In our case the two dual objects (modulo the reflection with respect to e) are the appropriately *rescaled* sets $d \operatorname{Ent}_k^1(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)$ of k-entangled states and of k-positive operators $d \mathcal{BP}_k^1(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)$ (cf (5)). The rescaling by the factor d is needed since the maximally mixed state $\rho_* = d^{-2} I_{\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d}$ is not of unit length in the Hilbert–Schmidt norm, and the correct normalization is $e = d^{-1} I_{\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d} = d \rho_*$. In the case of maps it is not necessary to renormalize; however, since we normally insist on the trace-preserving condition $^{\mathrm{TP}}$ (which also 'destroys' precise duality), estimating the size of the sets $\mathcal{SP}_k^{\mathrm{TP}}(\mathcal{M}_d)$ and $\mathcal{P}_k^{\mathrm{TP}}(\mathcal{M}_d)$ requires an additional elementary technical tool, proposition 6 of [26].

3.2. On volume radii, mean widths, and volumes of dual sets

Let K be a compact subset of $\mathbb{R}^n$. The volume radius of K is defined as

$$\operatorname{vrad}(K) = \left(\frac{\operatorname{vol}(K)}{\operatorname{vol}(B_2^n)} \right)^{1/n},$$

where B_2^n is the unit Euclidean ball. In other words, $\operatorname{vrad}(K)$ is the radius of a Euclidean ball, whose volume is equal to that of K.

Another measure of the size of K is the mean width defined by

$$w(K) = 2 \int_{S^{n-1}} h_K(u) \, \mathrm{d}u,$$

where $\mathrm{d}u$ is the normalized measure on S^{n-1} and $h_K(u) = \max_{x \in K} \langle x, u \rangle$ is the support function of K. Urysohn's inequality (see, e.g., [29] or [30]) asserts then that

$$\operatorname{vrad}(K) \leqslant \tfrac{1}{2} w(K). \tag{11}$$

Urysohn's inequality is usually stated for convex bodies (i.e. convex compact subsets of $\mathbb{R}^n$ with nonempty interior), but since clearly the width of a set and of its convex hull coincide, it is *a posteriori* true also for non-convex sets.

It is convenient to note that the spherical integral implicit in the definition of the width can be expressed as an integral with respect to μ_n, the standard Gaussian measure on $\mathbb{R}^n$,

$$\frac{1}{2} w(K) = \int_{S^{n-1}} \max_{x \in K} \langle x, u \rangle \, \mathrm{d}u = \gamma_n \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \max_{x \in K} \langle x, y \rangle \, \mathrm{d}\mu_n(y), \tag{12}$$

where $\gamma_n = \frac{\Gamma(n/2)}{\sqrt{2}\Gamma(n/2+1/2)} \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$. In turn, the Gaussian integral can be interpreted as the expected value of the maximum of a Gaussian process. Such quantities have been extensively studied in probability theory. In particular, Dudley's inequality ([31], or see [29], theorem 5.6) asserts that

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \max_{x \in K} \langle x, y \rangle \, \mathrm{d}\mu_n(y) \leqslant C \int_0^\infty \sqrt{\log N(K, \varepsilon)} \, \mathrm{d}\varepsilon, \tag{13}$$

where $C > 0$ is a universal numerical constant and $N(K, \varepsilon)$ (the covering number) is the smallest number N such that there are points $x_1, \ldots, x_N$ such that $K \subset \cup_{i=1}^{N} x_i + \varepsilon B_2^n$ (or, more generally, in an arbitrary metric space, the smallest number of balls of radius ε whose union covers K). The expression on the right-hand side of (13) is sometimes called *the entropy integral*.

3.3. Santaló and inverse Santaló inequalities

The classical Santaló inequality [32] asserts that if $K \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ is a 0-symmetric convex body and K° its polar body, then $\mathrm{vol}(K)\,\mathrm{vol}(K^\circ) \leqslant \left(\mathrm{vol}\big(B_2^m\big)\right)^2$ or, in other words,

$$\mathrm{vrad(K)}\,\mathrm{vrad(K^\circ)} \leqslant 1. \tag{14}$$

Moreover, the inequality holds also for not necessarily-symmetric convex sets after an appropriate translation. In particular, if the origin is the centroid of K or of K°, a condition that will be satisfied for all sets we will consider in what follows. Even more interestingly, there is a converse inequality [33], usually called 'the inverse Santaló inequality',

$$\mathrm{vrad(K)}\,\mathrm{vrad(K^\circ)} \geqslant c \tag{15}$$

for some universal numerical constant $c > 0$, independent of the convex body K (symmetric or not) and, most notably, of its dimension m. An argument yielding a reasonable value of c, particularly for *symmetric* bodies, was given by Kuperberg [34].

Inequalities (14) and (15) together imply that, under some natural hypotheses (which are verified in most of cases of interest), the volume radii of a convex body and of its polar are approximately (i.e. up to a multiplicative universal numerical constant) reciprocal.

Whenever an upper bound on volume radius is obtained via an estimate for the mean width (and then applying (11)), a lower bound on the size of the polar body can be derived without resorting to the inverse Santaló inequality. Instead, one may use the following elementary fact:

$$\mathrm{vrad}(K^\circ) \geqslant \tfrac{1}{2}(w(K))^{-1}, \tag{16}$$

which is just a consequence of the Hölder inequality—see, e.g., appendix A in [11].

4. Volume radii for the sets of states and maps

We are now in a position to derive the key technical result of this work: the determination of the asymptotic order of the volume radius of $\mathrm{Ent}_k^1(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)$, the set of k-entangled states of a $d \times d$ system. We start by estimating the covering numbers of $\mathrm{Ent}_k^1(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)$. Then we will use inequality (13) and identity (12) to estimate the mean width $w\big(\mathrm{Ent}_k^1(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)\big)$, and subsequently inequality (11) to obtain an upper bound (18) on its volume radius. In turn, the lower bound (21) on the volume radius will follow from inequalities for some norms associated with the sets $\mathrm{Ent}_k^1(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)$, which may be of independent interest. Due to the Choi–Jamiołkowski isomorphism one deduces then analogous estimates for the volumes of the set $\mathcal{SP}_k^{\mathrm{TP}}(\mathcal{M}_d)$ of k-superpositive maps. Eventually, by duality relations and other elementary considerations, these results lead to bounds for the volume radius of the set $\mathcal{P}_k^{\mathrm{TP}}(\mathcal{M}_d)$ of trace-preserving, k-positive maps acting on the d-dimensional system. As an aside, we will also compare the above sets to the set of PPT states or to that of decomposable maps, as appropriate.

Before proceeding, we offer a few comments on the relation between the unit vectors $\xi \in S_{\mathbb{C}^n} = \{\xi \in \mathbb{C}^n : |\xi| = 1\}$, the cosets $[\xi] \in S_{\mathbb{C}^n}/S_{\mathbb{C}^1} = \mathbb{C}P^{n-1}$ (the complex projective

space), and the rank 1 projections $|\xi\rangle\langle\xi| \in \mathcal{M}_n$. These distinct objects usually are not carefully distinguished in the physics literature since, most of the time, no confusion arises. However, here we need to be careful: even though the correspondence $[\xi] \to |\xi\rangle\langle\xi|$ is a bijection between $S_{\mathbb{C}^n}/S_{\mathbb{C}^1}$ and the set of pure states on $\mathbb{C}^n$, these two distinct 'identities' lead to different metric structures. For the projective space $P^{n-1} = S_{\mathbb{C}^n}/S_{\mathbb{C}^1}$, the canonical metric is induced by the Euclidean distance on $S_{\mathbb{C}^n} \subset \mathbb{C}^n$ and the quotient map $\xi \to [\xi]$, i.e. the distance between $[\xi]$ and $[\eta]$ is $\min_{z\in\mathbb{C},|z|=1} |\xi - z\eta| = 2^{1/2}(1 - |\langle\xi|\eta\rangle|)^{1/2}$. This distance, based on the Bures metric (see [2]), differs from the Hilbert–Schmidt metric, natural to measure the distance between two density operators, $\||\xi\rangle\langle\xi| - |\eta\rangle\langle\eta|\|_{\mathrm{HS}} = 2^{1/2}(1 - |\langle\xi|\eta\rangle|^2)^{1/2}$. The ratio between the Hilbert–Schmidt and the Bures distance *for pure states* is $(1 + |\langle\xi|\eta\rangle|)^{1/2}$, which can take any value between 1 and $\sqrt{2}$. This is actually good news since it tells us that when passing from one framework to the other we *at worst* need to pay the price of a dimension independent factor of $\sqrt{2}$.

4.1. Upper bound for $\mathrm{vrad}\left(\mathrm{Ent}_k^1(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)\right)$

Since, as mentioned earlier, the width of a set is the same as that of its convex hull, we will be estimating via Dudley's inequality (13) the mean width of $\mathrm{Ent}_k^P(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)$, the set of the extreme points of the set $\mathrm{Ent}_k^1(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)$ of k-entangled states. In turn, by the remark above, the latter problem reduces—at the cost of a multiplicative factor not exceeding $\sqrt{2}$—to estimating the entropy integral of the sets of k-entangled *vectors* $\mathrm{Ent}_k^V(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d) \subset S_{\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d}$. We will employ the identification indicated in (7), i.e.

$$\mathrm{Ent}_k^V(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d) \sim \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^k s_j |u_j\rangle\langle v_j| \ : \ s_j \geqslant 0, \ \sum_{j=1}^k s_j^2 = 1 \right\} \subset \mathcal{M}_d,$$

where (u_j) and (v_j) vary over orthonormal sequences in $\mathbb{C}^d$, and the problem reduces to finding, for $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$, ε-nets of this set of $d \times d$ matrices (with respect to the Euclidean, or Hilbert–Schmidt metric) with good bounds on their cardinalities.

Given $\tau = \sum_{j=1}^k t_j |u_j\rangle\langle v_j| \in \mathrm{Ent}_k^V(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)$, set

$$E = E_\tau = \mathrm{span}\{u_i : 1 \leqslant i \leqslant k\}, \qquad F = F_\tau = \mathrm{span}\{v_i : 1 \leqslant i \leqslant k\} \qquad (17)$$

and let T be the matrix τ considered as an operator acting from F to E. Thus, to each $\tau \in \mathrm{Ent}_k^V(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)$ there correspond $(E, F) \in G_{d,k} \times G_{d,k}$ and $T \in S_{\mathrm{HS}(F,E)}$ such that $\tau = TP_F$, where P_H stands for the orthogonal projection of $\mathbb{C}^d$ onto H. Accordingly, the problem reduces to estimating the appropriate covering numbers of the Grassmann manifold $G_{d,k}$ and of $S_{\mathrm{HS}(F,E)}$, which—geometrically—is just the unit sphere in a k^2-dimensional (complex) Euclidean space.

Before proceeding, we shall make more precise the metric structure of $G_{d,k}$ implicit in the concept of a net needed for our construction. It will be based on the operator norm $\|\cdot\|_{\mathrm{op}}$ on $\mathcal{M}_d$; if E, E' are k-dimensional subspaces of $\mathbb{C}^d$, we set

$$d_{\mathrm{op}}(E, E') := \min\{\|U - I\|_{\mathrm{op}} \ : \ U \in \mathcal{U}(d), UE = E'\},$$

where $\mathcal{U}(d)$ is the unitary group. We note that d_{op} is the quotient distance induced by the *extrinsic* operator norm on $\mathcal{M}_d \supset \mathcal{U}(d)$ and *not* an intrinsic (geodesic) distance. The corresponding intrinsic distance is the largest principal angle between E and E' and is induced in the same way by the geodesic distance on $\mathcal{U}(d)$. For clarity, we note that if α is the largest principal angle between E and E', then $d_{\mathrm{op}}(E, E') = |e^{i\alpha} - 1| = 2\sin(\alpha/2) \leqslant \alpha$, and it is elementary to check that then $\|P_E - P_{E'}\|_{\mathrm{op}} = \sin\alpha \leqslant d_{\mathrm{op}}(E, E')$ (this is not going to be

used). We now claim that an ε-net $\mathcal{N}_1$ on $G_{d,k}$ (with respect to d_{op}) and ε-nets (with respect to the Hilbert–Schmidt norm $\| \cdot \|_{\mathrm{HS}}$) $\mathcal{N}_{E,F}$ on $S_{\mathrm{HS}(F,E)} \sim S_{\mathbb{C}^{k^2}}$ for $E, F \in \mathcal{N}_1$ lead to a 3ε-net

$$\mathcal{N} = \{T P_F \ : \ E, F \in \mathcal{N}_1, T \in \mathcal{N}_{E,F}\}$$

in $\mathrm{Ent}_k^V(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)$. Indeed, consider an arbitrary element of $\mathrm{Ent}_k^V(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)$ induced by $E', F' \in G_{d,k}$ and $T' : F' \to E'$, i.e. $T' P_{F'}$. Let E and F in $\mathcal{N}_1$ be such that

$$d_{\mathrm{op}}(E, E') \leqslant \varepsilon, \qquad d_{\mathrm{op}}(F, F') \leqslant \varepsilon.$$

Next, let $U, V \in \mathcal{U}(d)$ be such that $V F = F'$, $U E' = E$ and

$$\|V - I\|_{\mathrm{op}} \leqslant d_{\mathrm{op}}(F, F') \leqslant \varepsilon \qquad \text{and} \qquad \|U - I\|_{\mathrm{op}} \leqslant d_{\mathrm{op}}(E, E') \leqslant \varepsilon.$$

Set $S = U T' V$. Then $S \in S_{\mathrm{HS}(F,E)}$ and consequently $S P_F$ can be approximated within ε (in the Hilbert–Schmidt norm) by an element of $\mathcal{N}$. Thus it will follow that $\mathcal{N}$ is a 3ε-net of $\mathrm{Ent}_k^V(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)$ if we show that $S P_F$ is within 2ε of $T' P_{F'}$. To that end, we note first that $S P_F = U T' V P_F = U T' P_{F'} V$ (the second equality because $P_{F'} = V P_F V^\dagger$) and so

$$
\begin{aligned}
\|S P_F - T' P_{F'}\|_{\mathrm{HS}} &= \|U T' P_{F'} V - T' P_{F'}\|_{\mathrm{HS}} \\
&\leqslant \|U T' P_{F'} V - T' P_{F'} V\|_{\mathrm{HS}} + \|T' P_{F'} V - T' P_{F'}\|_{\mathrm{HS}} \\
&\leqslant \|U - I\|_{\mathrm{op}} \|T' P_{F'} V\|_{\mathrm{HS}} + \|T' P_{F'}\|_{\mathrm{HS}} \|V - I\|_{\mathrm{op}} \\
&\leqslant \varepsilon \|T'\|_{\mathrm{HS}} + \varepsilon \|T'\|_{\mathrm{HS}} = 2\varepsilon
\end{aligned}
$$

as required. It now remains to collect known estimates on covering numbers (with respect to the appropriate metrics) of $G_{d,k}$ and $S_{\mathbb{C}^{k^2}}$. In both cases these estimates are of the form $N(K, \delta) \leqslant (C/\delta)^{\dim_{\mathbb{R}} K}$, where $C > 0$ is a universal constant (for $G_{d,k}$, see remark 8.4 in [35] for the statement and [36, 37] for proofs and more general setting; the case of $S_{\mathbb{C}^m}$ is classical, see [29], lemma 4.10). This yields an estimate

$$N\big(\mathrm{Ent}_k^V(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d), \varepsilon\big) \leqslant \#\mathcal{N} \leqslant (3C/\varepsilon)^{2k^2} ((3C/\varepsilon)^{4k(d-k)})^2 = (C'/\varepsilon)^{2k(4d-3k)} \leqslant (C'/\varepsilon)^{8kd}$$

as we assumed that $k \leqslant d$. By prior remarks, passing from $\mathrm{Ent}_k^V(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)$ to $\mathrm{Ent}_k^P(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)$ introduces at worst an extra $\sqrt{2}$ factor, or replacing the constant C' by $C_1 = \sqrt{2}C'$. Accordingly, the integrand $\sqrt{\log N(K, \varepsilon)}$ in (13) for $K = \mathrm{Ent}_k^P(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)$ is at most $\sqrt{8kd}\sqrt{\log(C_1/\varepsilon)}$, while the upper limit of integration is 1. This means that the singularity at $\varepsilon = 0$ is integrable, and the final estimate is

$$
\begin{aligned}
\mathrm{vrad}\big(\mathrm{Ent}_k^1(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)\big) &\leqslant \frac{1}{2} w\big(\mathrm{Ent}_k^1(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)\big) = \frac{1}{2} w\big(\mathrm{Ent}_k^P(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)\big) \leqslant C \gamma_{d^4} C' \sqrt{kd} \\
&\leqslant C_0 \frac{k^{1/2}}{d^{3/2}}.
\end{aligned}
\tag{18}
$$

For $k = 1$ (separable states) and for $k = d$ (all states), the above bound is known to give the correct order (see, e.g., [13]). In the next subsection we are going to show that the obtained bound is a tight estimate for the volume (and, consequently, for the mean width) also for the intermediate cases $k = 2, \ldots, d - 1$.

4.2. The lower bound

We start with an inequality concerning norms on $\mathcal{H} = \mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d$. Given $k \in \{1, 2, \ldots, d\}$, we set, for $\xi \in \mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d$,

$$\|\xi\|^{(k)} := \max_{\zeta \in \mathrm{Ent}_k^V(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)} |\langle \xi, \zeta \rangle|. \tag{19}$$

(Under identification (7), $\| \cdot \|^{(1)}$ corresponds to the operator norm and $\| \cdot \|^{(d)}$ to the Hilbert–Schmidt/Frobenius norm.) We will need the following elementary inequality:

$$\|\xi\|^{(k)} \geqslant \sqrt{k/d}\, \|\xi\|^{(d)} = \sqrt{k/d}\, |\xi| \quad \text{for all } \xi \in \mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d. \tag{20}$$

The norms defined by (19) were studied—independent of this paper—in [38], where they were denoted as $\| \cdot \|_{s(k)}$. (Note that the arXiv version of [38] corrects some minor errors present in the published version of [38] that are relevant to our argument.) In particular, equation (20) is a special case of corollary 3.4 in [38]. We will sketch the argument for completeness. To this end, let $\xi = \sum_{j=1}^{d} s_j\, u_j \otimes v_j$ be the Schmidt decomposition and, for $\Lambda \subset \{1, 2, \ldots, d\}$, set $\xi_\Lambda = \sum_{j \in \Lambda} s_j\, u_j \otimes v_j$. If Λ varies over all subsets of $\{1, 2, \ldots, d\}$ of size k, then $\mathbb{E}\xi_\Lambda = \frac{k}{d}\xi$, $\mathbb{E}|\xi_\Lambda|^2 = \frac{k}{d}|\xi|^2$ (where $\mathbb{E}$ is the average over all choices of Λ) and $\xi_\Lambda/|\xi_\Lambda| \in \mathrm{Ent}_k^V(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)$ for all Λ such that $\xi_\Lambda \neq 0$. We have, on the one hand,

$$\mathbb{E}\langle \xi, \xi_\Lambda \rangle = \frac{k}{d}\langle \xi, \xi \rangle = \frac{k}{d}|\xi|^2$$

while, on the other hand, ignoring Λ's for which $\xi_\Lambda = 0$,

$$\mathbb{E}\langle \xi, \xi_\Lambda \rangle = \mathbb{E}\left(\left\langle \xi, \frac{\xi_\Lambda}{|\xi_\Lambda|} \right\rangle |\xi_\Lambda| \right) \leqslant \|\xi\|^{(k)} \mathbb{E}|\xi_\Lambda|$$

$$\leqslant \|\xi\|^{(k)}(\mathbb{E}|\xi_\Lambda|^2)^{1/2} = \|\xi\|^{(k)}\sqrt{\frac{k}{d}}|\xi|$$

and it remains to compare the two expressions.

We now want to show that the symmetrized set of (mixed) $2k$-separable states, i.e. $\mathrm{conv}\big(-\mathrm{Ent}_{2k}^1(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d) \cup \mathrm{Ent}_{2k}^1(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)\big)$, considered as a subset of the $\mathbb{R}$-linear subspace of $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)$ consisting of Hermitian matrices, contains a Hilbert–Schmidt ball of radius $\frac{k^{1/2}}{d^{3/2}}$. A standard argument based on Rogers–Shephard inequality—as in [11], appendix C—will then imply that $\mathrm{vrad}\big(\mathrm{Ent}_{2k}^1(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)\big) \geqslant \frac{1}{2}\frac{k^{1/2}}{d^{3/2}}$; hence,

$$\mathrm{vrad}\big(\mathrm{Ent}_k^1(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)\big) \geqslant \frac{1}{2}\frac{\lfloor k/2 \rfloor^{1/2}}{d^{3/2}}, \tag{21}$$

which gives the needed lower bound. (Here $\lfloor x \rfloor$ stands for the integer part of x; note that we can assume that $k \geqslant 2$ since the case $k = 1$ was handled already in [13].)

To show that $\mathrm{conv}\big(-\mathrm{Ent}_{2k}^1(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d) \cup \mathrm{Ent}_{2k}^1(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)\big)$ contains the appropriate Hilbert–Schmidt ball we will argue by duality: we will prove that the support function of $-\mathrm{Ent}_{2k}^1(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d) \cup \mathrm{Ent}_{2k}^1(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)$ is bounded from below by $\frac{k^{1/2}}{d^{3/2}}$. To that end, consider an arbitrary Hermitian operator A on $\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d$ with $\|A\|_{HS} = 1$. We need to show that

$$\max_{M \in \mathrm{Ent}_{2k}^1(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)} |\mathrm{tr}\, AM| = \max_{|\eta\rangle \in \mathrm{Ent}_{2k}^V(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)} |\mathrm{tr}\, A|\eta\rangle\langle\eta||$$

$$= \max_{|\eta\rangle \in \mathrm{Ent}_{2k}^V(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)} |\langle\eta|A|\eta\rangle|$$

$$\geqslant \frac{k^{1/2}}{d^{3/2}}.$$

The equalities are immediate; the inequality will be shown by establishing a chain of identities and inequalities:

$$\max_{|\eta\rangle \in \mathrm{Ent}_{2k}^V(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)} |\langle\eta|A\,|\eta\rangle| \geqslant \max_{|\phi\rangle, |\psi\rangle \in \mathrm{Ent}_k^V(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)} \mathrm{Re}(\langle\phi|A\,|\psi\rangle)$$

$$= \max_{|\phi\rangle, |\psi\rangle \in \mathrm{Ent}_k^V(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)} |\langle\phi|A\,|\psi\rangle|$$

$$\geqslant \frac{k^{1/2}}{d^{3/2}}. \tag{22}$$

Again, the equality is easy: it follows from the fact that the quantity under the third maximum does not change when we multiply $|\phi\rangle$ or $|\psi\rangle$ by $z \in \mathbb{C}$ with $|z| = 1$.

For the second inequality in (22), we note that for a fixed $|\psi\rangle \in \mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d$,

$$\max_{|\phi\rangle \in \text{Ent}_k^V(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)} |\langle\phi|A|\psi\rangle| = \||A|\psi\rangle\|^{(k)} \geqslant \sqrt{\frac{k}{d}}|A|\psi\rangle|$$

by (20). Next,

$$\max_{|\psi\rangle \in \text{Ent}_k^V(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)} |A|\psi\rangle| \geqslant \max_{|\psi\rangle \in \text{Ent}_1^V(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)} |A|\psi\rangle| \geqslant \sqrt{\langle|A|\psi\rangle|^2\rangle_\psi},$$

where the symbol $\langle\cdot\rangle_\psi$ under the square root stands for the average, taken with respect to the natural product measure, over $\psi \in \text{Ent}_1^V(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d) = \{u \otimes v : u, v \in S_{\mathbb{C}^d}\} \sim S_{\mathbb{C}^d} \times S_{\mathbb{C}^d}$, the set of normalized product pure states. It remains to check that this average equals

$$\int_{S_{\mathbb{C}^d}} \int_{S_{\mathbb{C}^d}} |A|u \otimes v\rangle|^2 \, \mathrm{d}u \, \mathrm{d}v = \frac{1}{d^2}\|A\|_{\text{HS}}^2 = \frac{1}{d^2}$$

and combines the estimates.

The first inequality in (22) follows via a standard polarization argument, with a small additional twist to obtain an estimate without any additional multiplicative constants. First, since A is Hermitian, one has

$$\text{Re}(\langle\phi|A|\psi\rangle) = \text{Re}(\text{tr}(A|\psi\rangle\langle\phi|)) = \text{tr}(A\text{Re}(|\psi\rangle\langle\phi|)).$$

Next, we have an elementary identity,

$$\left|\frac{\phi+\psi}{2}\right\rangle\left\langle\frac{\phi+\psi}{2}\right| - \left|\frac{\phi-\psi}{2}\right\rangle\left\langle\frac{\phi-\psi}{2}\right| = \text{Re}(|\psi\rangle\langle\phi|).$$

Combining the two, we obtain

$$\text{Re}(\langle\phi|A|\psi\rangle) = \langle\eta_1|A|\eta_1\rangle - \langle\eta_2|A|\eta_2\rangle,$$

where $\eta_1 = \left|\frac{\phi+\psi}{2}\right\rangle$ and $\eta_2 = \left|\frac{\phi-\psi}{2}\right\rangle$. Since the Schmidt rank of η_1 and η_2 is at most $2k$, it follows that $\text{Re}(\langle\phi|A|\psi\rangle) \leqslant (|\eta_1|^2 + |\eta_2|^2)\max_{|\eta\rangle \in \text{Ent}_{2k}^V(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)} |\langle\eta|A|\eta\rangle|$. On the other hand, the parallelogram identity yields $|\eta_1|^2 + |\eta_2|^2 = \left|\frac{\phi+\psi}{2}\right|^2 + \left|\frac{\phi-\psi}{2}\right|^2 = \frac{|\phi|^2+|\psi|^2}{2} = 1$, which gives the required first inequality in (22).

Inequalities (22) may be of interest in themselves. Let us just mention that, in the notation of [38], they read

$$\max_{|\eta\rangle \in \text{Ent}_{2k}^V(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)} |\langle\eta|A|\eta\rangle| \geqslant \|A\|_{S(k)} \geqslant \frac{k^{1/2}}{d^{3/2}}\|A\|_{\text{HS}} \tag{23}$$

for $A \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)$, with the first inequality requiring additionally $A = A^\dagger$.

4.3. k-entangled states and PPT states

Inequalities (18) and (21) establish together the precise order of magnitude of the volume radius of the set $\text{Ent}_k^1(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)$. In the standard notation of mathematics and computer science, such two-sided estimates are subsumed by saying that the volume radius of the set of k-entangled states 'equals $\Theta((k/d^3)^{1/2})$' or 'belongs to $\Theta((k/d^3)^{1/2})$'. For future reference, we recall that the argument shows also that the mean width of the set of k-entangled states exhibits exactly the same behavior.

While the important class of PPT, the states with *positive partial transpose*, does not fit neatly into the hierarchy of k-entangled states, we do know (see [13], theorem 4) that its

volume radius is of the same order as that of the set of *all* states on $\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d$, i.e. $\Theta(1/d)$. This allows us to deduce the following statement: *there exists a universal constant $\alpha > 0$ such that whenever $k \leqslant \alpha d$, then the volume of the set of k-entangled states is much smaller than the volume of the set of PPT states.* In particular, for such k, d, most of PPT states *are not k*-entangled.

It makes sense to exchange the roles of the two classes and to ask, for example, whether or not 'most of' 2-entangled states are PPT. This is a more subtle question and our methods do not have direct bearing on it. Let us, however, take this opportunity to draw the reader's attention to a very interesting and deep recent paper [39], which provides the first rigorous proof that, in high dimensions, most of states *are not* PPT.

4.4. Consequences for the sets of maps

The determination of the precise order of magnitude of the volume radius of the set $\mathrm{Ent}_k^1(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)$ as $\Theta((k/d^3)^{1/2})$ allows us, by (8), (10), and the discussion in section 3.3, to study the dual set $\mathcal{BP}_k^1(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)$. In particular, we conclude that $\mathrm{vrad}(\mathcal{BP}_k^1(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)) = d^{-2}\Theta((k/d^3)^{-1/2}) = \Theta((kd)^{-1/2})$. (The factor d^{-2} is an artifact of the 'rescaling' issue pointed out in the last paragraph of section 3.1.)

Finally, to deduce sharp estimates on the volume radius of $\mathcal{SP}_k^{\mathrm{TP}}(\mathcal{M}_d)$ and $\mathcal{P}_k^{\mathrm{TP}}(\mathcal{M}_d)$ we appeal to (5) and then to proposition 6 of [26]. The difficulty is that, as indicated in the discussion following (5), we cannot (for example) identify $\mathcal{P}_k^{\mathrm{TP}}(\mathcal{M}_d)$ with $d\,\mathcal{BP}_k^1(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)$. Instead, $\mathcal{P}_k^{\mathrm{TP}}(\mathcal{M}_d)$ corresponds to a section of $d\,\mathcal{BP}_k^1(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)$ along the affine subspace defined by the trace-preserving condition. This is where proposition 6 of [26] comes to the rescue.

Heuristically, proposition 6 of [26] shows that if an *m*-dimensional convex body *K* is 'reasonably balanced', then all its central sections whose codimension is 'substantially smaller' than *m* have volume radii close to that of *K*. More specifically, suppose $\mathcal{C}$ is *any* convex cone of maps on $\mathcal{M}_d$ which contains the superpositive cone and is contained in the positive cone (all cones considered here verify this condition). Let $\mathcal{C}^1 := \{\Phi \in \mathcal{C} : \mathrm{tr}\,\Phi(I_{\mathbb{C}^d}) = 1\}$ be the base of $\mathcal{C}$ and let $\mathcal{C}^{\mathrm{TP}} := \{\Phi \in \mathcal{C} : \forall\,\rho \in \mathcal{M}_d\ \mathrm{tr}\,\Phi(\rho) = \mathrm{tr}\rho\}$ be the section of $d\,\mathcal{C}^1$ (a rescaled base) defined by the trace-preserving condition. The argument from [26] (proposition 6 in [26] and the discussion in the paragraph following it) shows then that the volume radii of $d\,\mathcal{C}^1$ and of $\mathcal{C}^{\mathrm{TP}}$ differ by a factor $1 \pm O(\log d/d^2)$. In our setting, this implies that $\mathrm{vrad}\big(\mathcal{P}_k^{\mathrm{TP}}(\mathcal{M}_d)\big) \sim \mathrm{vrad}(d\mathcal{BP}_k^1(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)) = d\Theta((kd)^{-1/2}) = \Theta((d/k)^{1/2})$. Similarly, $\mathrm{vrad}\big(\mathcal{SP}_k^{\mathrm{TP}}(\mathcal{M}_d)\big) = \Theta((k/d)^{1/2})$.

Finally, in a manner parallel to the preceding subsection 4.3, one can relate the sets of *k*-positive maps to that of decomposable maps, i.e. the sums of a completely positive map and of a completely positive map composed with the transpose map. Since the cone of decomposable maps is dual (in the appropriate sense) to the cone of PPT matrices, it follows (by duality, or directly quoting [26]) that the volume radius of the set of trace-preserving decomposable maps on $\mathcal{M}_d$ is of the same order as that of $\mathcal{CP}^{\mathrm{TP}}(\mathcal{M}_d) = \mathcal{P}_d^{\mathrm{TP}}(\mathcal{M}_d)$, and hence smaller than that of $\mathcal{P}_k^{\mathrm{TP}}(\mathcal{M}_d)$ provided $k \leqslant \alpha' d$. Consequently, for such k, d, most k-positive maps are not decomposable.

5. Concluding remarks

In this work we obtain explicit and asymptotically sharp estimates for the volume radius (in the sense of the Hilbert–Schmidt measure) of the convex body $\mathrm{Ent}_k^1(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d)$ of normalized k-entangled states. For $k = 1, \ldots, d-1$ these bodies form a nested family of subsets of

the set of all states on a bipartite $d \times d$ system, which in the present notation coincides with $\mathrm{Ent}_d^1(\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d) \subset \mathcal{M}_{d^2}$.

Making use of the Choi–Jamiołkowski isomorphism, we then deduce bounds for the volumes of the sets $\mathcal{SP}_k^{\mathrm{TP}}$ of trace-preserving, k-superpositive maps, also called k-entanglement breaking channels. Finally, appealing to the Santaló and inverse Santaló inequalities, which relate the volumes of two dual sets, we obtain tight estimates for the volumes of the sets $\mathcal{P}_k^{\mathrm{TP}}$ of trace-preserving, k-positive maps, acting on density matrices of a given size d. (This is again a nested family, with extreme cases $k = 1$ and $k = d$ corresponding respectively to positivity preserving and completely positive quantum maps.)

Our findings show that, in large dimension, the property of 'additional degrees of positivity' is uncommon. On the other hand, allowing 'additional degrees of entanglement' is a major relaxation. While our methods allow us only to compare the set of k-entangled states with that of ak-entangled states, where $a > 1$ is a universal constant (and similarly for maps), the estimates obtained strongly suggest that, for large dimension d, the set of k-entangled states covers only a small fraction of the larger set of $(k + 1)$-entangled states, with the trend particularly pronounced for small k's. Indeed, we did show that, for $\mathcal{H} = \mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d$, the ratio $R_{k,d} := \frac{\mathrm{vrad}(\mathrm{Ent}_k^1(\mathcal{H}))}{(k/d^3)^{1/2}}$ verifies $c_0 \leqslant R_{k,d} \leqslant C_0$ for some positive constants c_0, C_0 independent of k, d. If, instead, we had $R_{k,d} = c(d)$, with $c(d) \in [c_0, C_0]$ independent of k, it would follow that $\frac{\mathrm{vol}(\mathrm{Ent}_{k+1}^1(\mathcal{H}))}{\mathrm{vol}(\mathrm{Ent}_k^1(\mathcal{H}))} = \left(1 + \frac{1}{k}\right)^{(d^2-1)/2}$. While it is hard to expect that the equality $R_{k,d} = c(d)$ holds *precisely*, it would hold *approximately* if the dependence of $R_{k,d}$ on the parameters k, d was regular enough (which we cannot prove rigorously). However, it *does* follow form our estimates that 'in the mean' the ratios of the volumes of successive sets do behave as indicated above, i.e. are exponential in d^2 for small k, and then taper off to exponential in d when k is of order d. Further, it follows that if a state is randomly chosen (with respect to the Hilbert–Schmidt volume), then the probability that it is k-entangled can be upper bounded by $\left(\frac{Ck}{d}\right)^{(d^2-1)/2}$ and lower bounded by $\left(\frac{ck}{d}\right)^{(d^2-1)/2}$, where $C \geqslant c > 0$ are universal constants. Similar comments can be made about volumes of the sets $\mathcal{P}_k^{\mathrm{TP}}$ of k-positive maps, except that in that setting the volumes *decrease* with k. It is also possible to relate (sets of) k-entangled states and k-positive maps to other standard sets whose volumes are (at least approximately) known. For example, it follows that if k is sufficiently smaller than d, then most PPT states are not k-entangled, and most k-positive maps are not decomposable.

Of special importance are the cases involving $k = 2$. This is because understanding the set of 2-entangled states is crucial (for example) for problems related to the distillation of quantum entanglement. Thus it would be of substantial interest to rigorously show that, for large dimension d, the ratios $\frac{\mathrm{vol}(\mathrm{Ent}_2^1(\mathcal{H}))}{\mathrm{vol}(\mathrm{Ent}_1^1(\mathcal{H}))}$ and $\frac{\mathrm{vol}(\mathrm{Ent}_3^1(\mathcal{H}))}{\mathrm{vol}(\mathrm{Ent}_2^1(\mathcal{H}))}$ do indeed behave as predicted by our 'global' estimates, i.e. the set of 2-entangled states is exponentially (in d^2) small in comparison to the set of 3-entangled states, but exponentially large with respect to the set of separable states.

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