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**SOME OPERATOR ORDER INEQUALITIES FOR CONTINUOUS FUNCTIONS OF  
SELFADJOINT OPERATORS IN HILBERT SPACES**

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ABSTRACT. Various bounds in the operator order for the following operator transform

$$\tilde{f}(A) := \frac{1}{2} [f(A) - f((m+M)1_H - A)],$$

where  $A$  is a selfadjoint operator in the Hilbert space  $H$  with the spectrum  $Sp(A) \subseteq [m, M]$  and  $f : [m, M] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is a continuous function on  $[m, M]$  are given. Applications for the power and logarithmic functions are provided as well.

*Key words and phrases:* Selfadjoint operators, Functions of Selfadjoint operators, Spectral representation, Inequalities for selfadjoint operators.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Let  $A$  be a selfadjoint linear operator on a complex Hilbert space  $(H; \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ . The *Gelfand map* establishes a  $*$ -isometrically isomorphism  $\Phi$  between the set  $C(Sp(A))$  of all *continuous functions* defined on the *spectrum* of  $A$ , denoted  $Sp(A)$ , and the  $C^*$ -algebra  $C^*(A)$  generated by  $A$  and the identity operator  $1_H$  on  $H$  as follows (see for instance [12, p. 3]):

For any  $f, g \in C(Sp(A))$  and any  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{C}$  we have

- (i)  $\Phi(\alpha f + \beta g) = \alpha\Phi(f) + \beta\Phi(g)$ ;
- (ii)  $\Phi(fg) = \Phi(f)\Phi(g)$  and  $\Phi(\bar{f}) = \Phi(f)^*$ ;
- (iii)  $\|\Phi(f)\| = \|f\| := \sup_{t \in Sp(A)} |f(t)|$ ;
- (iv)  $\Phi(f_0) = 1_H$  and  $\Phi(f_1) = A$ , where  $f_0(t) = 1$  and  $f_1(t) = t$ , for  $t \in Sp(A)$ .

With this notation we define

$$f(A) := \Phi(f) \text{ for all } f \in C(Sp(A))$$

and we call it the *continuous functional calculus* for a selfadjoint operator  $A$ .

If  $A$  is a selfadjoint operator and  $f$  is a real valued continuous function on  $Sp(A)$ , then  $f(t) \geq 0$  for any  $t \in Sp(A)$  implies that  $f(A) \geq 0$ , *i.e.*  $f(A)$  is a *positive operator* on  $H$ . Moreover, if both  $f$  and  $g$  are real valued functions on  $Sp(A)$  then the following important property holds:

- (P)  $f(t) \geq g(t)$  for any  $t \in Sp(A)$  implies that  $f(A) \geq g(A)$

in the operator order of  $B(H)$ . We recall that  $A \geq B$  in the operator order of  $B(H)$  if  $\langle Ax, x \rangle \geq \langle Bx, x \rangle$  for any  $x \in H$ .

For a recent monograph devoted to various inequalities for continuous functions of selfadjoint operators, see [12] and the references therein.

For other recent results see the research papers [2], [3], [4], [13], [14], [15], [16] and the survey papers [1], [9] and [10].

Let  $U$  be a selfadjoint operator on the complex Hilbert space  $(H, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$  with the spectrum  $Sp(U)$  included in the interval  $[m, M]$  for some real numbers  $m < M$  and let  $\{E_\lambda\}_\lambda$  be its *spectral family*. Then for any continuous function  $f : [m, M] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ , it is well known that we have the following *spectral representation in terms of the Riemann-Stieltjes integral*:

$$(1.1) \quad \langle f(U)x, y \rangle = \int_{m-0}^M f(\lambda) d(\langle E_\lambda x, y \rangle),$$

for any  $x, y \in H$ . The function  $g_{x,y}(\lambda) := \langle E_\lambda x, y \rangle$  is of *bounded variation* on the interval  $[m, M]$  and

$$g_{x,y}(m-0) = 0 \text{ and } g_{x,y}(M) = \langle x, y \rangle$$

for any  $x, y \in H$ . It is also well known that  $g_x(\lambda) := \langle E_\lambda x, x \rangle$  is *monotonic nondecreasing* and *right continuous* on  $[m, M]$ .

## 2. TRAPEZOIDAL AND OSTROWSKI TYPE INEQUALITIES IN THE OPERATOR ORDER

Utilising scalar trapezoidal type inequalities, Dragomir obtained in [8] the following results:

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $A$  be a selfadjoint operator in the Hilbert space  $H$  with the spectrum  $Sp(A) \subseteq [m, M]$  for some real numbers  $m < M$ .*

1. If  $f : [m, M] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is continuous on  $[m, M]$ , then

$$(2.1) \quad \left| \frac{f(m)(M1_H - A) + f(M)(A - m1_H)}{M - m} - f(A) \right| \leq \left[ \max_{t \in [m, M]} f(t) - \min_{t \in [m, M]} f(t) \right] 1_H.$$

2. If  $f : [m, M] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is continuous and of bounded variation on  $[m, M]$ , then

$$(2.2) \quad \left| \frac{f(m)(M1_H - A) + f(M)(A - m1_H)}{M - m} - f(A) \right| \leq \frac{M1_H - A}{M - m} \bigvee_m^A(f) + \frac{A - m1_H}{M - m} \bigvee_A^M(f) \leq \left[ \frac{1}{2} + \frac{|A - \frac{m+M}{2}1_H|}{M - m} \right] \bigvee_m^M(f),$$

where  $\bigvee_m^A(f)$  denotes the operator generated by the scalar function  $[m, M] \ni t \mapsto \bigvee_m^t(f) \in \mathbb{R}$ .

The same notation applies for  $\bigvee_A^M(f)$ .

3. If  $f : [m, M] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is Lipschitzian with the constant  $L > 0$  on  $[m, M]$ , then

$$(2.3) \quad \left| \frac{f(m)(M1_H - A) + f(M)(A - m1_H)}{M - m} - f(A) \right| \leq \frac{M1_H - A}{M - m} |f(A) - f(m)1_H| + \frac{A - m1_H}{M - m} |f(M)1_H - f(A)| \leq \frac{1}{2}(M - m)L1_H.$$

4. If  $f : [m, M] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is continuous convex on  $[m, M]$  with finite lateral derivatives  $f'_-(M)$  and  $f'_+(m)$ , then we have the inequalities:

$$(2.4) \quad 0 \leq \frac{f(m)(M1_H - A) + f(M)(A - m1_H)}{M - m} - f(A) \leq \frac{(M1_H - A)(A - m1_H)}{M - m} [f'_-(M) - f'_+(m)] \leq \frac{1}{4}(M - m)[f'_-(M) - f'_+(m)]1_H.$$

When more information is available on the derivative of the function, the following inequalities may be stated as well, see [8]:

**Theorem 2.2.** Let  $A$  be a selfadjoint operator in the Hilbert space  $H$  with the spectrum  $Sp(A) \subseteq [m, M]$  for some real numbers  $m < M$ . Assume that the function  $f : I \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  with  $[m, M] \subset \overset{\circ}{I}$  (the interior of  $I$ ) is differentiable on  $\overset{\circ}{I}$ .

1. If the derivative  $f'$  is continuous and of bounded variation on  $[m, M]$ , then we have the inequality

$$(2.5) \quad \left| \frac{f(m)(M1_H - A) + f(M)(A - m1_H)}{M - m} - f(A) \right| \\ \leq \frac{(A - m1_H)(M1_H - A)}{M - m} \bigvee_m^M(f') \\ \leq \frac{1}{4} (M - m) \bigvee_m^M(f') 1_H.$$

2. If the derivative  $f'$  is Lipschitzian with the constant  $K > 0$  on  $[m, M]$ , then we have the inequality

$$(2.6) \quad \left| \frac{f(m)(M1_H - A) + f(M)(A - m1_H)}{M - m} - f(A) \right| \\ \leq \frac{1}{2} (M - m) (A - m1_H) (M1_H - A) K \\ \leq \frac{1}{8} (M - m)^2 K 1_H.$$

The dual case that provides Ostrowski type inequalities in the operator order have been obtained in [7]:

**Theorem 2.3.** Let  $A$  be a selfadjoint operator in the Hilbert space  $H$  with the spectrum  $Sp(A) \subseteq [m, M]$  for some real numbers  $m < M$ .

(1) If  $f : [m, M] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is a continuous function of bounded variation on  $[m, M]$ , then we have the inequality

$$(2.7) \quad \left| f(A) - \left( \frac{1}{M - m} \int_m^M f(t) dt \right) \cdot 1_H \right| \leq \left[ \frac{1}{2} 1_H + \left| \frac{A - \frac{m+M}{2} 1_H}{M - m} \right| \right] \bigvee_m^M(f)$$

where  $\bigvee_m^M(f)$  denotes the total variation of  $f$  on  $[m, M]$ . The constant  $\frac{1}{2}$  is best possible in (2.7).

(2) If  $f : [m, M] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is an absolutely continuous function such that there exists the real constants  $\gamma$  and  $\Gamma, \gamma < \Gamma$  with the property that  $\gamma \leq f'(s) \leq \Gamma$  for almost every  $s \in [m, M]$ , then we have the following double inequality in the operator order of  $B(H)$ :

$$(2.8) \quad -\frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{\Gamma - \gamma}{M - m} \left[ \left( A - \frac{M\Gamma - m\gamma}{\Gamma - \gamma} \cdot 1_H \right)^2 - \Gamma\gamma \left( \frac{M - m}{\Gamma - \gamma} \right)^2 \cdot 1_H \right] \\ \leq f(A) - \left( \frac{1}{M - m} \int_m^M f(t) dt \right) \cdot 1_H \\ \leq \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{\Gamma - \gamma}{M - m} \left[ \left( A - \frac{m\Gamma - M\gamma}{\Gamma - \gamma} \cdot 1_H \right)^2 - \Gamma\gamma \left( \frac{M - m}{\Gamma - \gamma} \right)^2 \cdot 1_H \right].$$

(3) If  $f : [m, M] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is an absolutely continuous function, then we have in the operator order the following inequalities

$$(2.9) \quad \left| f(A) - \left( \frac{1}{M-m} \int_m^M f(t) dt \right) \cdot 1_H \right| \leq \begin{cases} \left[ \frac{1}{4} 1_H + \left( \frac{A - \frac{m+M}{2} 1_H}{M-m} \right)^2 \right] (M-m) \|f'\|_\infty & \text{if } f' \in L_\infty[m, M]; \\ \frac{1}{(p+1)^{\frac{1}{p}}} \left[ \left( \frac{A-m 1_H}{M-m} \right)^{p+1} + \left( \frac{M 1_H - A}{M-m} \right)^{p+1} \right] (M-m)^{\frac{1}{q}} \|f'\|_q & \text{if } f' \in L_p[m, M], \frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1, p > 1; \\ \left[ \frac{1}{2} 1_H + \left| \frac{A - \frac{m+M}{2} 1_H}{M-m} \right| \right] \|f'\|_1. \end{cases}$$

Motivated by the above results we investigate in this paper the problem of bounding in the operator order the following operator transform

$$\tilde{f}(A) := \frac{1}{2} [f(A) - f((m+M) 1_H - A)]$$

where  $A$  is a selfadjoint operator in the Hilbert space  $H$  with the spectrum  $Sp(A) \subseteq [m, M]$  and  $f : [m, M] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is a continuous function on  $[m, M]$ . Some applications for power and logarithmic functions are provided as well.

The same notation

$$\tilde{f}(t) := \frac{1}{2} [f(t) - f(m+M-t)]$$

can be used for the scalar function  $f : [m, M] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  and could be seen as a "measure of asymmetry" for  $f$ .

### 3. SOME IMMEDIATE BOUNDS FOR $\tilde{f}(A)$

The following result is a natural consequence of Theorem 2.1:

**Theorem 3.1.** Let  $A$  be a selfadjoint operator in the Hilbert space  $H$  with the spectrum  $Sp(A) \subseteq [m, M]$  for some real numbers  $m < M$ .

1. If  $f : [m, M] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is continuous on  $[m, M]$ , then

$$(3.1) \quad \left| \frac{f(M) - f(m)}{M-m} \left( A - \frac{m+M}{2} 1_H \right) - \tilde{f}(A) \right| \leq \left[ \max_{t \in [m, M]} \tilde{f}(t) - \min_{t \in [m, M]} \tilde{f}(t) \right] 1_H \leq \left[ \max_{t \in [m, M]} f(t) - \min_{t \in [m, M]} f(t) \right] 1_H.$$

2. If  $f : [m, M] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is continuous and of bounded variation on  $[m, M]$ , then

$$(3.2) \quad \left| \frac{f(M) - f(m)}{M - m} \left( A - \frac{m + M}{2} 1_H \right) - \tilde{f}(A) \right| \\ \leq \left[ \frac{1}{2} + \frac{|A - \frac{m+M}{2} 1_H|}{M - m} \right] \bigvee_m^M(\tilde{f}) \\ \leq \left[ \frac{1}{2} + \frac{|A - \frac{m+M}{2} 1_H|}{M - m} \right] \bigvee_m^M(f).$$

3. If  $f : [m, M] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is Lipschitzian with the constant  $L > 0$  on  $[m, M]$ , then

$$(3.3) \quad \left| \frac{f(M) - f(m)}{M - m} \left( A - \frac{m + M}{2} 1_H \right) - \tilde{f}(A) \right| \\ \leq \frac{1}{2} (M - m) L 1_H.$$

*Proof.* If we write the inequality (2.1) for  $\tilde{f}$  we have

$$(3.4) \quad \left| \frac{\tilde{f}(m)(M 1_H - A) + \tilde{f}(M)(A - m 1_H)}{M - m} - \tilde{f}(A) \right| \\ \leq \left[ \max_{t \in [m, M]} \tilde{f}(t) - \min_{t \in [m, M]} \tilde{f}(t) \right] 1_H.$$

Since

$$\tilde{f}(M) = -\tilde{f}(m) = \frac{f(M) - f(m)}{2},$$

then

$$\frac{\tilde{f}(m)(M 1_H - A) + \tilde{f}(M)(A - m 1_H)}{M - m} = \frac{f(M) - f(m)}{M - m} \left( A - \frac{m + M}{2} 1_H \right)$$

and by (3.4) we deduce the first inequality in (3.1).

If we denote  $\delta = \min_{t \in [m, M]} f(t)$  and  $\Delta = \max_{t \in [m, M]} f(t)$  then  $\delta \leq f(t) \leq \Delta$  and  $-\Delta \leq -f(m + M - t) \leq -\delta$  which gives that

$$-\frac{1}{2}(\Delta - \delta) \leq \tilde{f}(t) \leq \frac{1}{2}(\Delta - \delta)$$

therefore

$$\max_{t \in [m, M]} \tilde{f}(t) \leq \frac{1}{2}(\Delta - \delta) \text{ and } -\frac{1}{2}(\Delta - \delta) \leq \min_{t \in [m, M]} \tilde{f}(t)$$

which implies that

$$\max_{t \in [m, M]} \tilde{f}(t) - \min_{t \in [m, M]} \tilde{f}(t) \leq \Delta - \delta$$

and the second inequality in (3.1) is proved.

The first inequality in (3.2) follows from (2.2).

If  $f$  is of bounded variation, then obviously  $\tilde{f}$  is of bounded variation and

$$\bigvee_m^M(\tilde{f}) \leq \frac{1}{2} \left[ \bigvee_m^M(f) + \bigvee_m^M(f(m + M - \cdot)) \right] = \bigvee_m^M(f).$$

This proves the last part of (3.2).

Now, if  $f$  is Lipschitzian with the constant  $L > 0$  then  $\tilde{f}$  is also Lipschitzian with at least the same constant  $L$  and by (2.3) we deduce the desired result (3.3). ■

We need the following notation

$$\widehat{g}(s) := \frac{1}{2} [g(s) + g(m + M - s)], s \in [m, M]$$

where  $g : [m, M] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ .

**Theorem 3.2.** *Let  $A$  be a selfadjoint operator in the Hilbert space  $H$  with the spectrum  $Sp(A) \subseteq [m, M]$  for some real numbers  $m < M$ .*

(1) *If  $f : [m, M] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is a continuous function of bounded variation on  $[m, M]$ , then we have the inequality*

$$(3.5) \quad \begin{aligned} |\tilde{f}(A)| &\leq \left[ \frac{1}{2} 1_H + \left| \frac{A - \frac{m+M}{2} 1_H}{M - m} \right| \right] \bigvee_m^M(\tilde{f}) \\ &\leq \left[ \frac{1}{2} 1_H + \left| \frac{A - \frac{m+M}{2} 1_H}{M - m} \right| \right] \bigvee_m^M(f). \end{aligned}$$

(2) *If  $f : [m, M] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is an absolutely continuous function such that there exists the real constants  $\gamma$  and  $\Gamma, \gamma < \Gamma$  with the property that  $\gamma \leq f'(s) \leq \Gamma$  for almost every  $s \in [m, M]$ , then we have the following double inequality in the operator order of  $B(H)$ :*

$$(3.6) \quad \begin{aligned} &-\frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{\Gamma - \gamma}{M - m} \left[ \left( A - \frac{M\Gamma - m\gamma}{\Gamma - \gamma} \cdot 1_H \right)^2 - \Gamma\gamma \left( \frac{M - m}{\Gamma - \gamma} \right)^2 \cdot 1_H \right] \\ &\leq \tilde{f}(A) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{\Gamma - \gamma}{M - m} \left[ \left( A - \frac{m\Gamma - M\gamma}{\Gamma - \gamma} \cdot 1_H \right)^2 - \Gamma\gamma \left( \frac{M - m}{\Gamma - \gamma} \right)^2 \cdot 1_H \right]. \end{aligned}$$

(3) *If  $f : [m, M] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is an absolutely continuous function, then we have in the operator order the following inequalities*

$$(3.7) \quad \begin{aligned} &|\tilde{f}(A)| \\ &\leq \begin{cases} \left[ \frac{1}{4} 1_H + \left( \frac{A - \frac{m+M}{2} 1_H}{M - m} \right)^2 \right] (M - m) \|\widehat{(f')}\|_\infty & \text{if } f' \in L_\infty[m, M]; \\ \frac{1}{(p+1)^{\frac{1}{p}}} \left[ \left( \frac{A - m 1_H}{M - m} \right)^{p+1} + \left( \frac{M 1_H - A}{M - m} \right)^{p+1} \right] (M - m)^{\frac{1}{q}} \|\widehat{(f')}\|_q & \text{if } f' \in L_p[m, M], \frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1, p > 1; \\ \left[ \frac{1}{2} 1_H + \left| \frac{A - \frac{m+M}{2} 1_H}{M - m} \right| \right] \|\widehat{(f')}\|_1 & \\ \left[ \frac{1}{4} 1_H + \left( \frac{A - \frac{m+M}{2} 1_H}{M - m} \right)^2 \right] (M - m) \|f'\|_\infty & \text{if } f' \in L_\infty[m, M]; \\ \frac{1}{(p+1)^{\frac{1}{p}}} \left[ \left( \frac{A - m 1_H}{M - m} \right)^{p+1} + \left( \frac{M 1_H - A}{M - m} \right)^{p+1} \right] (M - m)^{\frac{1}{q}} \|f'\|_q & \text{if } f' \in L_p[m, M], \frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1, p > 1; \\ \left[ \frac{1}{2} 1_H + \left| \frac{A - \frac{m+M}{2} 1_H}{M - m} \right| \right] \|f'\|_1 & \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* Follows by Theorem 2.3 applied for  $\tilde{f}$  and observing that

$$\frac{1}{M-m} \int_m^M \tilde{f}(t) dt = 0$$

and the fact that if  $\gamma \leq f'(s) \leq \Gamma$  for almost every  $s \in [m, M]$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} (\tilde{f}(s))' &= \frac{1}{2} [f(s) - f(m+M-s)]' \\ &= \frac{1}{2} [f'(s) + f'(m+M-s)] \\ &= \widehat{(f')}(s) \in [\gamma, \Gamma] \end{aligned}$$

for almost every  $s \in [m, M]$ , where we have used the notation

$$\widehat{g}(s) := \frac{1}{2} [g(s) + g(m+M-s)], s \in [m, M].$$

The last part from (3.7) follows from the fact that

$$\begin{aligned} \|\widehat{g}\|_q &\leq \frac{1}{2} [\|g\|_q + \|g(m+M-\cdot)\|_q] \\ &= \|g\|_q \end{aligned}$$

for any  $q \in [1, \infty]$ . ■

Finally, we can state the following result as well:

**Theorem 3.3.** *Let  $A$  be a selfadjoint operator in the Hilbert space  $H$  with the spectrum  $Sp(A) \subseteq [m, M]$  for some real numbers  $m < M$ . Assume that the function  $f : I \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  with  $[m, M] \subset \overset{\circ}{I}$  (the interior of  $I$ ) is differentiable on  $\overset{\circ}{I}$ .*

1. *If the derivative  $f'$  is continuous and of bounded variation on  $[m, M]$ , then we have the inequality*

$$\begin{aligned} (3.8) \quad & \left| \frac{f(M) - f(m)}{M-m} \left( A - \frac{m+M}{2} 1_H \right) - \tilde{f}(A) \right| \\ & \leq \frac{(A - m1_H)(M1_H - A)}{M-m} \bigvee_m^M (\widehat{(f')}) \\ & \leq \frac{1}{4} (M-m) \bigvee_m^M (\widehat{(f')}) 1_H. \end{aligned}$$

2. *If the derivative  $f'$  is Lipschitzian with the constant  $K > 0$  on  $[m, M]$ , then we have the inequality*

$$\begin{aligned} (3.9) \quad & \left| \frac{f(M) - f(m)}{M-m} \left( A - \frac{m+M}{2} 1_H \right) - \tilde{f}(A) \right| \\ & \leq \frac{1}{2} (M-m) (A - m1_H)(M1_H - A) K \\ & \leq \frac{1}{8} (M-m)^2 K 1_H. \end{aligned}$$

This is a direct consequence of Theorem 2.2 and the details are omitted.



#### 4. OTHER BOUNDS

The following simple bounds for the operator  $|\tilde{f}(A)|$  hold:

**Theorem 4.1.** *Let  $A$  be a selfadjoint operator in the Hilbert space  $H$  with the spectrum  $Sp(A) \subseteq [m, M]$  for some real numbers  $m < M$ .*

(1) *If the function  $f : [m, M] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is continuous, then*

$$(4.1) \quad |\tilde{f}(A)| \leq \frac{1}{2} \left[ \max_{t \in [m, M]} f(t) - \min_{t \in [m, M]} f(t) \right] 1_H.$$

(2) *If the function  $f : [m, M] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is continuous and of bounded variation, then*

$$(4.2) \quad |\tilde{f}(A)| \leq \frac{1}{2} \bigvee_m^M (\tilde{f}) 1_H \leq \frac{1}{2} \bigvee_m^M (f) 1_H.$$

(3) *If the function  $f : [m, M] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is  $r$ - $H$ -Hölder continuous, i.e. for fixed  $r \in (0, 1]$  and  $H > 0$  we have*

$$|f(t) - f(s)| \leq |t - s| \text{ for any } t, s \in [m, M],$$

then

$$(4.3) \quad |\tilde{f}(A)| \leq \frac{1}{2^{1-r}} H \left| A - \frac{m+M}{2} 1_H \right|^r.$$

(4) *If the function  $f : [m, M] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is absolutely continuous on  $[m, M]$ , then*

$$(4.4) \quad |\tilde{f}(A)| \leq \begin{cases} |A - \frac{m+M}{2} 1_H| \|f'\|_\infty & \text{if } f' \in L_\infty[m, M] \\ \frac{1}{2^{1-1/q}} |A - \frac{m+M}{2} 1_H|^{1/q} \|f'\|_p & \text{if } f' \in L_\infty[m, M], \\ & p > 1, \frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1. \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* 1. As above, if we denote  $\delta = \min_{t \in [m, M]} f(t)$  and  $\Delta = \max_{t \in [m, M]} f(t)$  then  $\delta \leq f(t) \leq \Delta$  and  $-\Delta \leq -f(m+M-t) \leq -\delta$  which gives that

$$|\tilde{f}(t)| \leq \frac{1}{2} (\Delta - \delta)$$

for any  $t \in [m, M]$ .

Applying the property (P) we deduce the desired result.

2. Since  $\tilde{f}(M) = -\tilde{f}(m)$ , then we have

$$\begin{aligned} |\tilde{f}(t)| &= \left| \tilde{f}(t) - \frac{\tilde{f}(M) + \tilde{f}(m)}{2} \right| \\ &\leq \frac{|\tilde{f}(t) - \tilde{f}(m)| + |\tilde{f}(M) - \tilde{f}(t)|}{2} \leq \frac{1}{2} \bigvee_m^M (\tilde{f}), \end{aligned}$$

for any  $t \in [m, M]$ .

Applying the property (P) we deduce the first inequality in (4.2). The second part was proven before.

3. Utilising the definition, we have

$$\begin{aligned} |\tilde{f}(t)| &= \frac{1}{2} |f(t) - f(m+M-t)| \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2} H |2t - (m+M)|^r = \frac{1}{2^{1-r}} H \left| t - \frac{m+M}{2} \right|^r \end{aligned}$$

for any  $t \in [m, M]$ .

Applying the property (P) we deduce the desired inequality in (4.3).

4. Since  $f$  is absolutely continuous on  $[m, M]$ , then

$$\left| \tilde{f}(t) \right| = \frac{1}{2} |f(t) - f(m + M - t)| = \frac{1}{2} \left| \int_t^{m+M-t} f'(s) ds \right|$$

for any  $t \in [m, M]$ .

Utilising the integral Hölder's inequality we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \tilde{f}(t) \right| &\leq \frac{1}{2} \left| \int_t^{m+M-t} |f'(s)| ds \right| \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2} \times \begin{cases} |2t - (m + M)| \|f'\|_\infty & \text{if } f' \in L_\infty [m, M] \\ |2t - (m + M)|^{1/q} \|f'\|_p & \text{if } f' \in L_\infty [m, M], \\ & p > 1, \frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1. \end{cases} \\ &= \begin{cases} \left| t - \frac{m+M}{2} \right| \|f'\|_\infty & \text{if } f' \in L_\infty [m, M] \\ \frac{1}{2^{1-1/q}} \left| t - \frac{m+M}{2} \right|^{1/q} \|f'\|_p & \text{if } f' \in L_\infty [m, M], \\ & p > 1, \frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

for any  $t \in [m, M]$ .

Applying the property (P) we deduce the desired inequality in (4.4). ■

The following result the provided upper and lower bounds for  $\tilde{f}(A)$  in the operator order of  $B(H)$  also holds:

**Theorem 4.2.** *Let  $A$  be a selfadjoint operator in the Hilbert space  $H$  with the spectrum  $Sp(A) \subseteq [m, M]$  for some real numbers  $m < M$ . Assume that the function  $f : I \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  with  $[m, M] \subset \overset{\circ}{I}$  (the interior of  $I$ ) is differentiable on  $\overset{\circ}{I}$ . If the derivative  $f'$  is continuous and convex on  $[m, M]$  then*

$$\begin{aligned} (4.5) \quad &\frac{1}{2} [f(M) - f(m)] 1_H - \frac{f'(m) + f'(M)}{2} (M1_H - A) \\ &\leq \tilde{f}(A) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2} [f(M) - f(m)] 1_H - f' \left( \frac{m+M}{2} \right) (M1_H - A) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} (4.6) \quad &f' \left( \frac{m+M}{2} \right) (A - m1_H) - \frac{1}{2} [f(M) - f(m)] 1_H \\ &\leq \tilde{f}(A) \\ &\leq \frac{f'(m) + f'(M)}{2} (A - m1_H) - \frac{1}{2} [f(M) - f(m)] 1_H. \end{aligned}$$

We also have the inequality

$$(4.7) \quad \begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \left[ f' \left( \frac{m+M}{2} \right) (A - m1_H) - \frac{f'(m) + f'(M)}{2} (M1_H - A) \right] \\ & \leq \tilde{f}(A) \\ & \leq \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{f'(m) + f'(M)}{2} (A - m1_H) - f' \left( \frac{m+M}{2} \right) (M1_H - A) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* Let  $\{E_\lambda\}_\lambda$  be the spectral family of the operator  $A$ . For  $x \in H, \|x\| = 1$ , consider the function  $g : [m, M] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$g(\lambda) := \left\langle \frac{1}{2} (E_\lambda + E_{m+M-\lambda}) x, x \right\rangle.$$

Then  $g(\lambda) = g(m+M-\lambda)$  for any  $\lambda \in [m, M]$ , i.e.,  $g$  is symmetrical on  $[m, M]$  and  $g(\lambda) \geq 0$  for any  $\lambda \in [m, M]$ .

By the spectral representation (1.1) we also have that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{m-0}^M g(\lambda) d\lambda &= \int_{m-0}^M \left\langle \frac{1}{2} (E_\lambda + E_{m+M-\lambda}) x, x \right\rangle d\lambda \\ &= \int_{m-0}^M \langle E_\lambda x, x \rangle d\lambda \\ &= \langle E_\lambda x, x \rangle \lambda \Big|_{m-0}^M - \int_{m-0}^M \lambda d \langle E_\lambda x, x \rangle \\ &= \langle (M1_H - A) x, x \rangle \end{aligned}$$

for any  $x \in H, \|x\| = 1$ .

We use Fejér's inequality, see for instance [11, pp. 1-2], which says that if  $h : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is convex and  $g$  is symmetrical on  $[a, b]$  and nonnegative, then

$$h \left( \frac{a+b}{2} \right) \int_a^b g(\lambda) d\lambda \leq \int_a^b h(\lambda) g(\lambda) d\lambda \leq \frac{h(a) + h(b)}{2} \int_a^b g(\lambda) d\lambda.$$

By writing this inequality for  $h = f'$ , we can state that

$$(4.8) \quad \begin{aligned} f' \left( \frac{m+M}{2} \right) \int_{m-0}^M g(\lambda) d\lambda &\leq \int_{m-0}^M f'(\lambda) g(\lambda) d\lambda \\ &\leq \frac{f'(m) + f'(M)}{2} \int_{m-0}^M g(\lambda) d\lambda, \end{aligned}$$

for any  $x \in H, \|x\| = 1$ .

Integrating by parts, we observe that

$$(4.9) \quad \begin{aligned} I &:= \int_{m-0}^M f'(\lambda) g(\lambda) d\lambda = f(\lambda) g(\lambda) \Big|_{m-0}^M - \int_{m-0}^M f(\lambda) dg(\lambda) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} [f(M) - f(m)] \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{2} \left[ \int_{m-0}^M f(\lambda) d(\langle E_\lambda x, x \rangle) + \int_{m-0}^M f(\lambda) d(\langle E_{m+M-\lambda} x, x \rangle) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Utilising the change of variable  $t = m + M - \lambda$  and the spectral representation (1.1), we get that

$$\int_{m-0}^M f(\lambda) d(\langle E_{m+M-\lambda} x, x \rangle) = -\langle f((m+M)1_H - A)x, x \rangle$$

for any  $x \in H$ ,  $\|x\| = 1$  and since

$$\int_{m-0}^M f(\lambda) d(\langle E_\lambda x, x \rangle) = \langle f(A)x, x \rangle$$

for any  $x \in H$ ,  $\|x\| = 1$ , then by (4.9) we obtain

$$I = \frac{1}{2} [f(M) - f(m)] - \frac{1}{2} \langle [f(A) - f((m+M)1_H - A)]x, x \rangle,$$

for any  $x \in H$ ,  $\|x\| = 1$ .

On making use of the inequality (4.8) we can state that

$$\begin{aligned} & f' \left( \frac{m+M}{2} \right) \langle (M1_H - A)x, x \rangle \\ & \leq \frac{1}{2} [f(M) - f(m)] - \frac{1}{2} \langle [f(A) - f((m+M)1_H - A)]x, x \rangle \\ & \leq \frac{f'(m) + f'(M)}{2} \langle (M1_H - A)x, x \rangle, \end{aligned}$$

for any  $x \in H$ ,  $\|x\| = 1$ , which is equivalent with (4.5).

Now, if we replace in the inequality (4.5) the operator  $A$  with the operator  $(m+M)1_H - A$ , then we get the inequality

$$\begin{aligned} & f' \left( \frac{m+M}{2} \right) (A - m1_H) \\ & \leq \frac{1}{2} [f(M) - f(m)] 1_H + \frac{1}{2} [f(A) - f((m+M)1_H - A)] \\ & \leq \frac{f'(m) + f'(M)}{2} (A - m1_H), \end{aligned}$$

which is equivalent with (4.6).

Finally, we observe that the inequality (4.7) is obtained by adding the inequalities (4.5) with (4.6). ■

The following result may be stated as well:

**Theorem 4.3.** *Let  $A$  be a selfadjoint operator in the Hilbert space  $H$  with the spectrum  $Sp(A) \subseteq [m, M]$  for some real numbers  $m < M$ . Assume that the function  $f : I \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  with  $[m, M] \subset \overset{\circ}{I}$  (the interior of  $I$ ) is differentiable on  $\overset{\circ}{I}$ .*

(1) *If  $|f'|$  is convex on  $[m, M]$ , then*

$$(4.10) \quad \left| \tilde{f}(A) \right| \leq (M - m) \left[ \frac{|f'(m)| + |f'(M)|}{2} \right] \left[ \frac{1}{4} + \left( \frac{A - \frac{m+M}{2}1_H}{M - m} \right)^2 \right].$$

(2) *If  $|f'|$  is concave on  $[m, M]$ , then*

$$(4.11) \quad \left| \tilde{f}(A) \right| \leq (M - m) \left| f' \left( \frac{m+M}{2} \right) \right| \left[ \frac{1}{4} + \left( \frac{A - \frac{m+M}{2}1_H}{M - m} \right)^2 \right].$$

(3) If  $|f'|$  is quasiconvex on  $[m, M]$ , then

$$(4.12) \quad \left| \tilde{f}(A) \right| \leq (M - m) \max \{ |f'(m)|, |f'(M)| \} \left[ \frac{1}{4} + \left( \frac{A - \frac{m+M}{2} 1_H}{M - m} \right)^2 \right].$$

*Proof.* Integrating by parts in the Riemann integral, we get the following representation:

$$(4.13) \quad \begin{aligned} \tilde{f}(t) &= \tilde{f}(t) - \frac{1}{M - m} \int_m^M \tilde{f}(s) ds \\ &= \frac{1}{M - m} \int_m^t (s - m) (\tilde{f}(s))' ds + \frac{1}{M - m} \int_t^M (s - M) (\tilde{f}(s))' ds \\ &= \frac{1}{M - m} \int_m^t (s - m) \widehat{(f')}(s) ds + \frac{1}{M - m} \int_t^M (s - M) \widehat{(f')}(s) ds \end{aligned}$$

for any  $t \in [m, M]$ .

Taking the modulus in (4.14) we get

$$(4.14) \quad \begin{aligned} & \left| \tilde{f}(t) \right| \\ & \leq \frac{1}{M - m} \int_m^t (s - m) \left| \widehat{(f')}(s) \right| ds + \frac{1}{M - m} \int_t^M (M - s) \left| \widehat{(f')}(s) \right| ds \\ & \leq \frac{1}{M - m} \int_m^t (s - m) |f'(s)| ds + \frac{1}{M - m} \int_t^M (M - s) |f'(s)| ds \end{aligned}$$

for any  $t \in [m, M]$ .

1. If  $|f'|$  is convex on  $[m, M]$ , then

$$|f'(s)| \leq \frac{(s - m) |f'(M)| + (M - s) |f'(m)|}{M - m}$$

and

$$|f'(m + M - s)| \leq \frac{(s - m) |f'(m)| + (M - s) |f'(M)|}{M - m}$$

for any  $s \in [m, M]$ .

If we add the above two inequalities and divide by 2, then we get

$$(4.15) \quad \widehat{|f'|}(s) \leq \frac{1}{2} [|f'(m)| + |f'(M)|]$$

for any  $s \in [m, M]$ .

On making use of (4.14) and (4.15) we deduce

$$\begin{aligned}
 (4.16) \quad \left| \tilde{f}(t) \right| &\leq \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{M-m} [|f'(m)| + |f'(M)|] \\
 &\times \left[ \int_m^t (s-m) ds + \int_t^M (M-s) ds \right] \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{M-m} [|f'(m)| + |f'(M)|] \\
 &\times \left[ \frac{(t-m)^2 + (M-t)^2}{2} \right] \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} [|f'(m)| + |f'(M)|] \left[ \frac{1}{4} + \left( \frac{t - \frac{m+M}{2}}{M-m} \right)^2 \right] (M-m)
 \end{aligned}$$

for any  $t \in [m, M]$ .

Applying the property (P) we deduce the desired inequality in (4.10).

2. If  $|f'|$  is concave on  $[m, M]$ , then

$$\widehat{|f'|}(s) = \frac{1}{2} [|f'(s)| + |f'(m+M-s)|] \leq \left| f' \left( \frac{m+M}{2} \right) \right|$$

for any  $s \in [m, M]$  and by (4.14) we deduce

$$\begin{aligned}
 (4.17) \quad \left| \tilde{f}(t) \right| &\leq \frac{1}{M-m} \left| f' \left( \frac{m+M}{2} \right) \right| \\
 &\times \left[ \int_m^t (s-m) ds + \int_t^M (M-s) ds \right] \\
 &= \left| f' \left( \frac{m+M}{2} \right) \right| \left[ \frac{1}{4} + \left( \frac{t - \frac{m+M}{2}}{M-m} \right)^2 \right] (M-m)
 \end{aligned}$$

for any  $t \in [m, M]$ .

Applying the property (P) we deduce the desired inequality in (4.11).

3. If  $|f'|$  is quasiconvex on  $[m, M]$ , then

$$\widehat{|f'|}(s) = \frac{1}{2} [|f'(s)| + |f'(m+M-s)|] \leq \max \{|f'(m)|, |f'(M)|\}$$

for any  $s \in [m, M]$  from where we similarly get the desired result (4.12). ■

## 5. APPLICATIONS

Consider the function  $f : [m, M] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with  $[m, M] \subset (0, \infty)$  given by  $f(t) = \ln t$ . Then  $f'(t) = \frac{1}{t}$  is convex and on making use of Theorem 4.2 we get for any  $A$  a selfadjoint operator in the Hilbert space  $H$  with the spectrum  $Sp(A) \subseteq [m, M]$  that

$$\begin{aligned}
 (5.1) \quad & \ln \sqrt{\frac{M}{m}} 1_H - \frac{m+M}{2mM} (M1_H - A) \\
 & \leq \frac{1}{2} \{ \ln A - \ln [(m+M) 1_H - A] \} \\
 & \leq \ln \sqrt{\frac{M}{m}} 1_H - \frac{2}{m+M} (M1_H - A)
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 (5.2) \quad & \frac{2}{m+M} (A - m1_H) - \ln \sqrt{\frac{M}{m}} 1_H \\
 & \leq \frac{1}{2} \{ \ln A - \ln [(m+M) 1_H - A] \} \\
 & \leq \frac{m+M}{2mM} (A - m1_H) - \ln \sqrt{\frac{M}{m}} 1_H.
 \end{aligned}$$

We also have the inequality

$$\begin{aligned}
 (5.3) \quad & \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{2}{m+M} (A - m1_H) - \frac{m+M}{2mM} (M1_H - A) \right] \\
 & \leq \frac{1}{2} \{ \ln A - \ln [(m+M) 1_H - A] \} \\
 & \leq \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{m+M}{2mM} (A - m1_H) - \frac{2}{m+M} (M1_H - A) \right].
 \end{aligned}$$

Now, if we use the first statement in Theorem 4.3, then we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 (5.4) \quad & \frac{1}{2} | \ln A - \ln [(m+M) 1_H - A] | \\
 & \leq (M-m) \frac{m+M}{2mM} \left[ \frac{1}{4} + \left( \frac{A - \frac{m+M}{2} 1_H}{M-m} \right)^2 \right].
 \end{aligned}$$

Further, if we consider the power function  $f : [m, M] \subset (0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $f(t) = t^p$ ,  $p > 0$  then  $f'(t) = pt^{p-1}$  and for  $p \geq 2$  we have that  $f'$  is convex and by Theorem 4.2 we have for any  $A$  a selfadjoint operator in the Hilbert space  $H$  with the spectrum  $Sp(A) \subseteq [m, M]$  that

$$\begin{aligned}
 (5.5) \quad & \frac{1}{2} (M^p - m^p) 1_H - p \frac{m^{p-1} + M^{p-1}}{2} (M1_H - A) \\
 & \leq \frac{1}{2} [A^p - ((m+M) 1_H - A)^p] \\
 & \leq \frac{1}{2} (M^p - m^p) 1_H - p \left( \frac{m+M}{2} \right)^{p-1} (M1_H - A)
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 (5.6) \quad & p \left( \frac{m+M}{2} \right)^{p-1} (A - m1_H) - \frac{1}{2} (M^p - m^p) 1_H \\
 & \leq \frac{1}{2} [A^p - ((m+M) 1_H - A)^p] \\
 & \leq p \frac{m^{p-1} + M^{p-1}}{2} (A - m1_H) - \frac{1}{2} (M^p - m^p) 1_H.
 \end{aligned}$$

We also have the inequality

$$(5.7) \quad \begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2^p} \left[ \left( \frac{m+M}{2} \right)^{p-1} (A - m1_H) - \frac{m^{p-1} + M^{p-1}}{2} (M1_H - A) \right] \\ & \leq \frac{1}{2} [A^p - ((m+M)1_H - A)^p] \\ & \leq \frac{1}{2^p} \left[ \frac{m^{p-1} + M^{p-1}}{2} (A - m1_H) - \left( \frac{m+M}{2} \right)^{p-1} (M1_H - A) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Now, if we apply the first statement from Theorem 4.3, then we get for  $p \geq 2$  that

$$(5.8) \quad \begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} |A^p - ((m+M)1_H - A)^p| \\ & \leq p(M-m) \frac{m^{p-1} + M^{p-1}}{2} \left[ \frac{1}{4} + \left( \frac{A - \frac{m+M}{2}1_H}{M-m} \right)^2 \right]. \end{aligned}$$

By the second statement of the same theorem we also have for  $1 \leq p < 2$  that

$$(5.9) \quad \begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} |A^p - ((m+M)1_H - A)^p| \\ & \leq p(M-m) \left( \frac{m+M}{2} \right)^{p-1} \left[ \frac{1}{4} + \left( \frac{A - \frac{m+M}{2}1_H}{M-m} \right)^2 \right]. \end{aligned}$$

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