

## BOUNDS FOR AN OPERATOR CONCAVE FUNCTION

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**Abstract.** We shall provide new bounds for the difference of the Davis-Choi-Jensen inequality. Among others, we show that if  $\Phi$  is a unital positive linear map and  $f$  is operator concave on an interval  $[m, M]$ , then

$$f(\Phi(A)) - \Phi(f(A)) \leq 2 \left( f \left( \frac{m+M}{2} \right) - \frac{f(m)+f(M)}{2} \right) I$$

for every selfadjoint operator  $A$  such that  $mI \leq A \leq MI$  for some scalars  $m < M$ . Moreover, we discuss an external version of the Davis-Choi-Jensen inequality.

**Key words.** Operator concave function, Davis-Choi-Jensen inequality, Positive linear map

**AMS subject classifications.** 47A63

**1. Introduction.** Let  $\Phi$  be a unital positive linear map from  $\mathcal{B}(H)$  to  $\mathcal{B}(K)$ , where  $\mathcal{B}(H)$  is the  $C^*$ -algebra of all bounded linear operators on a Hilbert space  $H$ . The Davis-Choi-Jensen inequality [1, 2] says that if a real-valued function  $f$  is operator concave on an interval  $J$ , then

$$(1.1) \quad \Phi(f(A)) \leq f(\Phi(A))$$

for every selfadjoint operator  $A$  with spectrum  $\sigma(A) \subset J$ . Though in the case of concave function the inequality (1.1) does not hold in general, we have the following estimate [7]: If  $f$  is concave and  $A$  is a selfadjoint operator on  $H$  such that  $mI \leq A \leq MI$  for some scalars  $m < M$ , then

$$(1.2) \quad -\mu(m, M, f)I \leq f(\Phi(A)) - \Phi(f(A)) \leq \mu(m, M, f)I$$

for all unital positive linear maps  $\Phi$  where the bound  $\mu(m, M, f)$  of  $f$  is defined by

$$(1.3) \quad \mu(m, M, f) = \max \left\{ f(t) - \frac{f(M) - f(m)}{M - m}(t - m) - f(m) : t \in [m, M] \right\}.$$

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We note that bounds of (1.2) are sharp.

In [3], the first author showed the following estimate for the normalized Jensen functional: If a real-valued function  $f$  is concave on a convex set  $C$ , then for each positive  $n$ -tuples  $(p_1, \dots, p_n)$  and  $(q_1, \dots, q_n)$  with  $\sum_{i=1}^n p_i = 1$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^n q_i = 1$

$$\begin{aligned} & \min_{1 \leq i \leq n} \left\{ \frac{p_i}{q_i} \right\} \left( f \left( \sum_{i=1}^n q_i x_i \right) - \sum_{i=1}^n q_i f(x_i) \right) \leq \left( f \left( \sum_{i=1}^n p_i x_i \right) - \sum_{i=1}^n p_i f(x_i) \right) \\ & \leq \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \left\{ \frac{p_i}{q_i} \right\} \left( f \left( \sum_{i=1}^n q_i x_i \right) - \sum_{i=1}^n q_i f(x_i) \right) \end{aligned}$$

for all  $(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in C^n$ .

In this note, based on the idea of [3], we shall provide new bounds for the difference of the Davis-Choijensen inequality. Among others, we show that if  $\Phi$  is a unital positive linear map and  $f$  is operator concave on an interval  $[m, M]$ , then

$$f(\Phi(A)) - \Phi(f(A)) \leq 2 \left( f \left( \frac{m+M}{2} \right) - \frac{f(m) + f(M)}{2} \right) I$$

for every selfadjoint operator  $A$  such that  $mI \leq A \leq MI$  for some scalars  $m < M$ . Moreover, we discuss an external version of the Davis-Choijensen inequality.

**2. Davis-Choijensen inequality.** Let  $\Phi$  and  $\Psi$  be two positive linear maps from  $\mathcal{B}(H)$  to  $\mathcal{B}(K)$ .  $\Phi$  is said to be  $\alpha$ -upper dominant by  $\Psi$  if there exists  $\alpha > 0$  such that  $\alpha\Psi \geq \Phi$ . Similarly  $\Phi$  is said to be  $\beta$ -lower dominant by  $\Psi$  if there exists  $\beta > 0$  such that  $\Phi \geq \beta\Psi$ . Moreover,  $\Phi$  is  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -dominant by  $\Psi$  if  $\Phi$  is  $\alpha$ -upper and  $\beta$ -lower dominant by  $\Psi$ . The vector  $(p_1, \dots, p_n)$  is said to be a weight vector if  $p_i > 0$  for all  $i = 1, \dots, n$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^n p_i = 1$ . For example, we put two positive linear maps  $\Phi$  and  $\Psi : \mathcal{B}(H) \oplus \dots \oplus \mathcal{B}(H) \mapsto \mathcal{B}(H)$  as follows:

$$\Phi(A_1 \oplus \dots \oplus A_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n p_i A_i \quad \text{and} \quad \Psi(A_1 \oplus \dots \oplus A_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n q_i A_i,$$

where  $(p_1, \dots, p_n)$  and  $(q_1, \dots, q_n)$  are weight vectors. If we put  $\alpha = \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \left\{ \frac{p_i}{q_i} \right\}$  and  $\beta = \min_{1 \leq i \leq n} \left\{ \frac{p_i}{q_i} \right\}$ , then it follows that  $\Phi$  is  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -dominant by  $\Psi$ . In fact, we have

$$(\alpha\Psi - \Phi)(A_1 \oplus \dots \oplus A_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n \left( \alpha - \frac{p_i}{q_i} \right) q_i A_i$$

and

$$(\Phi - \beta\Psi)(A_1 \oplus \dots \oplus A_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{p_i}{q_i} - \beta \right) q_i A_i.$$

Therefore  $\alpha\Psi - \Phi$  and  $\Phi - \beta\Psi$  are positive linear maps.

Firstly, we provide bounds for the difference of the Davis-Cho-Jensen inequality:

**THEOREM 2.1.** *Let  $\Phi$  and  $\Psi$  be two unital positive linear maps from  $\mathcal{B}(H)$  to  $\mathcal{B}(K)$  such that  $\Phi$  is  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -dominant by  $\Psi$ . If  $f$  is operator concave on an interval  $J$ , then*

$$(2.1) \quad \beta(f(\Psi(A)) - \Psi(f(A))) \leq f(\Phi(A)) - \Phi(f(A)) \leq \alpha(f(\Psi(A)) - \Psi(f(A)))$$

for every selfadjoint operator  $A$  with spectrum  $\sigma(A) \subset J$ .

*Proof.* If we put  $\Phi_0(X) = \frac{1}{\alpha}X$ , then  $\Phi_0$  is a positive linear map. Since  $\Phi$  is  $\alpha$ -upper dominant by  $\Psi$ , we have  $\Psi - \frac{1}{\alpha}\Phi$  is positive and  $(\Psi - \frac{1}{\alpha}\Phi)(I) + \Phi_0(I) = I$ . Therefore, by the Jensen operator inequality (1.1) we have

$$\begin{aligned} f(\Psi(A)) &= f\left(\Psi(A) - \frac{1}{\alpha}\Phi(A) + \frac{1}{\alpha}\Phi(A)\right) = f\left(\left(\Psi - \frac{1}{\alpha}\Phi\right)(A) + \Phi_0(\Phi(A))\right) \\ &\geq \left(\Psi - \frac{1}{\alpha}\Phi\right)(f(A)) + \Phi_0(f(\Phi(A))) \\ &= \Psi(f(A)) - \frac{1}{\alpha}\Phi(f(A)) + \frac{1}{\alpha}f(\Phi(A)) \end{aligned}$$

and this implies the second inequality of (2.1).

Similarly, if we put  $\Phi_1(X) = \beta X$ , then it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} f(\Phi(A)) &= f\left(\Phi(A) - \beta\Psi(A) + \beta\Psi(A)\right) = f\left(\left(\Phi - \beta\Psi\right)(A) + \Phi_1(\Psi(A))\right) \\ &\geq \left(\Phi - \beta\Psi\right)(f(A)) + \Phi_1(f(\Psi(A))) = \Phi(f(A)) - \beta\Psi(f(A)) + \beta f(\Psi(A)). \end{aligned}$$

□

By Theorem 2.1, we have the following corollary as an operator concave version of [3, Theorem 1], see also [4].

**COROLLARY 2.2.** *Let  $(p_1, \dots, p_n)$  and  $(q_1, \dots, q_n)$  be two weight vectors. If  $f$  is operator concave on an interval  $J$ , then*

$$\begin{aligned} &\beta \left( f \left( \sum_{i=1}^n q_i A_i \right) - \sum_{i=1}^n q_i f(A_i) \right) \\ &\leq f \left( \sum_{i=1}^n p_i A_i \right) - \sum_{i=1}^n p_i f(A_i) \leq \alpha \left( f \left( \sum_{i=1}^n q_i A_i \right) - \sum_{i=1}^n q_i f(A_i) \right) \end{aligned}$$

for all selfadjoint operators  $A_1, \dots, A_n$  such that  $\sigma(A_i) \subset J$  for all  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , where  $\alpha = \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \left\{ \frac{p_i}{q_i} \right\}$  and  $\beta = \min_{1 \leq i \leq n} \left\{ \frac{p_i}{q_i} \right\}$ .

In particular,

$$\begin{aligned} & n \min_{1 \leq i \leq n} \{p_i\} \left( f \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{n} A_i \right) - \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{n} f(A_i) \right) \\ & \leq f \left( \sum_{i=1}^n p_i A_i \right) - \sum_{i=1}^n p_i f(A_i) \leq n \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \{p_i\} \left( f \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{n} A_i \right) - \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{n} f(A_i) \right). \end{aligned}$$

The following corollary is a two variable version of Theorem 2.1.

**COROLLARY 2.3.** *Let  $\Phi, \Psi, \Phi'$  and  $\Psi'$  be positive linear maps from  $\mathcal{B}(H)$  to  $\mathcal{B}(K)$  such that  $\Phi(I) + \Psi(I) = I$  and  $\Phi'(I) + \Psi'(I) = I$  and  $\Phi$  is  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -dominant by  $\Phi'$  and  $\Psi$  is  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -dominant by  $\Psi'$ . If a real-valued function  $f$  is operator concave on an interval  $J$ , then*

$$\begin{aligned} & \beta (f(\Phi'(A) + \Psi'(B)) - (\Phi'(f(A)) + \Psi'(f(B)))) \\ & \leq f(\Phi(A) + \Psi(B)) - (\Phi(f(A)) + \Psi(f(B))) \\ & \leq \alpha (f(\Phi'(A) + \Psi'(B)) - (\Phi'(f(A)) + \Psi'(f(B)))) \end{aligned}$$

for all selfadjoint operators  $A$  and  $B$  with  $\sigma(A), \sigma(B), \sigma(\Phi(A) + \Psi(B))$  and  $\sigma(\Phi'(A) + \Psi'(B)) \subset J$ .

**REMARK 2.4.** *Similarly we have the following  $n$ -variable version of Corollary 3. Let  $\{\Phi_i\}$  and  $\{\Phi'_i\}$  be positive linear maps from  $\mathcal{B}(H)$  to  $\mathcal{B}(K)$  such that  $\sum_{i=1}^n \Phi_i(I) = \sum_{i=1}^n \Phi'_i(I) = I$  and  $\Phi_i$  is  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -dominant by  $\Phi'_i$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . If a real-valued function  $f$  is operator concave on an interval  $J$ , then*

$$\begin{aligned} & \beta \left( f \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \Phi'_i(A_i) \right) - \sum_{i=1}^n \Phi'_i(f(A_i)) \right) \leq f \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \Phi_i(A_i) \right) - \sum_{i=1}^n \Phi_i(f(A_i)) \\ & \leq \alpha \left( f \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \Phi'_i(A_i) \right) - \sum_{i=1}^n \Phi'_i(f(A_i)) \right) \end{aligned}$$

for all selfadjoint operators  $A$  and  $B$  with  $\sigma(A), \sigma(B), \sigma(\sum_{i=1}^n \Phi_i(A))$  and  $\sigma(\sum_{i=1}^n \Phi'_i(A)) \subset J$ .

In the case of a concave function, we have no relation between  $\Phi(f(A))$  and  $f(\Phi(A))$ . Though we have the estimate of (1.2), we provide new bounds for the difference of the Davis-Cho-Jensen inequality by means of the difference of concavity.

**THEOREM 2.5.** *Let  $\Phi$  be a unital positive linear map from  $\mathcal{B}(H)$  to  $\mathcal{B}(K)$ . If a real-valued function  $f(t)$  is concave on  $[m, M]$ , then*

$$-\frac{2}{M-m} \left( f \left( \frac{m+M}{2} \right) - \frac{f(m) + f(M)}{2} \right) \Phi(F(A))$$

$$\leq f(\Phi(A)) - \Phi(f(A)) \leq \frac{2}{M-m} \left( f\left(\frac{m+M}{2}\right) - \frac{f(m)+f(M)}{2} \right) F(\Phi(A))$$

for every selfadjoint operator  $A$  such that  $mI \leq A \leq MI$  for some scalars  $m < M$ , where a real-valued function  $F(t)$  on  $[m, M]$  is defined by

$$F(t) = \frac{M-m}{2} + \left| t - \frac{M+m}{2} \right|.$$

*Proof.* Since  $\Phi$  is a unital positive linear map and  $f$  is concave on  $[m, M]$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi(f(A)) &\geq \Phi\left(\frac{f(M)-f(m)}{M-m}A + \frac{Mf(m)-mf(M)}{M-m}I\right) \\ &= \frac{f(M)-f(m)}{M-m}\Phi(A) + \frac{Mf(m)-mf(M)}{M-m}I. \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, it follows from (1.4) that

$$\begin{aligned} &f(t) - \frac{f(M)-f(m)}{M-m}t + \frac{Mf(m)-mf(M)}{M-m} \\ &= f\left(\frac{M-t}{M-m}m + \frac{t-m}{M-m}M\right) - \frac{M-t}{M-m}f(m) + \frac{t-m}{M-m}f(M) \\ &\leq \frac{2}{M-m} \max\{M-t, t-m\} \left( f\left(\frac{m+M}{2}\right) - \frac{f(m)+f(M)}{2} \right) \\ &= \frac{2}{M-m} \left( \frac{f(m)+f(M)}{2} - f\left(\frac{m+M}{2}\right) \right) F(t) \end{aligned}$$

and this implies

$$f(\Phi(A)) - \Phi(f(A)) \leq \frac{2}{M-m} \left( \frac{f(m)+f(M)}{2} - f\left(\frac{m+M}{2}\right) \right) F(\Phi(A)).$$

For the first half of Theorem 2.5, we have

$$\begin{aligned} f(\Phi(A)) - \Phi(f(A)) &\geq \frac{f(M)-f(m)}{M-m}\Phi(A) + \frac{Mf(m)-mf(M)}{M-m}I - \Phi(f(A)) \\ &= \Phi\left(\frac{f(M)-f(m)}{M-m}A + \frac{Mf(m)-mf(M)}{M-m}I - f(A)\right) \\ &\geq -\frac{2}{M-m} \left( \frac{f(m)+f(M)}{2} - f\left(\frac{m+M}{2}\right) \right) \Phi(F(A)). \end{aligned}$$

□

Since  $\frac{1}{M-m}F(\Phi(A)) \leq I$  in Theorem 2.5, we have the following upper bound for the difference of the Davis-Choï-Jensen inequality:

COROLLARY 2.6. *Let  $\Phi$ ,  $f$  and  $A$  be as in Theorem 2.5. Then*

$$f(\Phi(A)) - \Phi(f(A)) \leq 2 \left( f \left( \frac{m+M}{2} \right) - \frac{f(m)+f(M)}{2} \right) I.$$

The following corollary is another expression of (1.2).

COROLLARY 2.7. *Let  $\Phi$ ,  $f$  and  $A$  be as in Theorem 2.5. Then*

$$- \left( \tilde{f}_{\max} - \frac{f(m)+f(M)}{2} \right) I \leq f(\Phi(A)) - \Phi(f(A)) \leq \left( \tilde{f}_{\max} - \frac{f(m)+f(M)}{2} \right) I,$$

where  $\tilde{f}(t) = f(t) - \frac{f(M)-f(m)}{M-m}t + \frac{(M+m)(f(M)-f(m))}{2(M-m)}$  and  $\tilde{f}_{\max} = \max\{\tilde{f}(t) : m \leq t \leq M\}$ .

*Proof.* Since

$$\begin{aligned} f(t) - \frac{f(M)-f(m)}{M-m}t - \frac{Mf(m)-mf(M)}{M-m} &= \tilde{f}(t) - \frac{f(m)+f(M)}{2} \\ &\leq \tilde{f}_{\max} - \frac{f(m)+f(M)}{2}, \end{aligned}$$

it follows from the concavity of  $f$  that

$$\begin{aligned} f(\Phi(A)) - \Phi(f(A)) &\leq f(\Phi(A)) - \frac{f(M)-f(m)}{M-m}\Phi(A) - \frac{Mf(m)-mf(M)}{M-m}I \\ &\leq \left( \tilde{f}_{\max} - \frac{f(m)+f(M)}{2} \right) I. \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, by Stinespring decomposition theorem [10],  $\Phi$  restricted to a  $C^*$ -algebra  $C^*(A)$  generated by  $A$  and  $I$  admits a decomposition  $\Phi(X) = C^*\phi(X)C$  for all  $X \in C^*(A)$ , where  $\phi$  is a  $*$ -representation of  $C^*(A) \subset B(H)$  and  $C$  is a bounded linear operator from  $K$  to a Hilbert space  $K'$ . Since  $\Phi$  is unital, we have  $C^*C = I$ . For every unit vector  $x \in K$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle f(\Phi(A))x, x \rangle - \langle \Phi(f(A))x, x \rangle &= \langle f(C^*\phi(A)C)x, x \rangle - \langle C^*\phi(f(A))Cx, x \rangle \\ &= \langle f(\phi(A))Cx, Cx \rangle - \langle f(C^*\phi(A)C)x, x \rangle \\ &\leq f(\langle \phi(A)Cx, Cx \rangle) - \langle f(C^*\phi(A)C)x, x \rangle \\ &\leq f(\langle C^*\phi(A)Cx, x \rangle) - \frac{f(M)-f(m)}{M-m} \langle C^*\phi(A)Cx, x \rangle - \frac{Mf(m)-mf(M)}{M-m} \\ &\leq \tilde{f}_{\max} - \frac{f(m)+f(M)}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, we have

$$\Phi(f(A)) - f(\Phi(A)) \leq \left( \tilde{f}_{\max} - \frac{f(m)+f(M)}{2} \right) I$$

and this implies the first half part of the desired inequality.  $\square$

**3. External version of Davis-Cho-Jensen inequality.** In this section, we consider bounds of operator concavity in terms of an external formula. A real-valued continuous function  $f$  on  $J$  is operator concave if and only if

$$(3.1) \quad f((1+p)A - pB) \leq (1+p)f(A) - pf(B)$$

for all  $p > 0$  and all selfadjoint operators  $A$  and  $B$  with  $\sigma(A), \sigma(B)$  and  $\sigma((1+p)A - pB) \subset J$ . Then we have the following external version of the Jensen operator inequality: If  $f$  is operator concave, then

$$(3.2) \quad f\left(\left(1 + \sum_{i=1}^n p_i\right)A - \sum_{i=1}^n p_i B_i\right) \leq \left(1 + \sum_{i=1}^n p_i\right)f(A) - \sum_{i=1}^n p_i f(B_i)$$

for all selfadjoint operators  $A$  and  $B_i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, n$ ) with  $\sigma(A), \sigma(B_i)$  and  $\sigma\left(\left(1 + \sum_{i=1}^n p_i\right)A - \sum_{i=1}^n p_i B_i\right) \subset J$ , also see [5, 9].

For a real-valued continuous function  $f$ , we define the following notation

$$A \sigma_f B = A^{\frac{1}{2}} f(A^{-\frac{1}{2}} B A^{-\frac{1}{2}}) A^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

for positive invertible  $A$  and selfadjoint  $B$ , also see [8].

Let  $\Phi$  be a positive linear map from  $\mathcal{B}(H)$  to  $\mathcal{B}(K)$ . In [6], we show the following external version of the Davis-Cho-Jensen inequality: Let  $f$  be a real-valued continuous function on an interval  $J$ . Then  $f$  is operator concave if and only if

$$(3.3) \quad f(\Phi(A) - \Psi(B)) \leq \Phi(I) \sigma_f \Phi(A) - \Psi(f(B))$$

for all positive linear maps  $\Phi, \Psi$  such that  $\Phi(I) - \Psi(I) = I$  and for all selfadjoint operators  $A$  and  $B$  with  $\sigma(A), \sigma(B)$  and  $\sigma(\Phi(A) - \Psi(B)) \subset J$ . The invertibility of  $\Phi(I)$  guarantees the formulation of (3.3). In this case, we have

$$\Phi(f(A)) \leq \Phi(I) \sigma_f \Phi(A).$$

In fact, in Stinespring decomposition theorem  $\Phi(X) = C^* \phi(X) C$ , we have the polar decomposition  $C = V|C|$  such that  $|C|$  is invertible, because  $C^* C = \Phi(I) = I + \Psi(I) > 0$ . Since  $V^* V = I$ , it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi(f(A)) &= |C| V^* f(\phi(A)) V |C| \leq |C| f(V^* \phi(A) V) |C| \\ &= |C| f(|C|^{-1} C^* \phi(A) C |C|^{-1}) |C| = \Phi(I) \sigma_f \Phi(A). \end{aligned}$$

If moreover  $C$  is invertible, then we have  $\Phi(f(A)) = \Phi(I) \sigma_f \Phi(A)$  and hence

$$(3.4) \quad f(\Phi(A) - \Psi(B)) \leq \Phi(f(A)) - \Psi(f(B)),$$

see [6].

Based on the external version (3.4) of the Davis-Cho-Jensen inequality, we have the following bounds for the difference of the operator concavity.

**THEOREM 3.1.** *Let  $\Phi, \Psi, \Phi'$  and  $\Psi'$  be positive linear maps from  $\mathcal{B}(H)$  to  $\mathcal{B}(K)$  such that  $\Phi(I) - \Psi(I) = I$  and  $\Phi'(I) - \Psi'(I) = I$  and  $\Phi$  is  $(\beta, \alpha)$ -dominant by  $\Phi'$  and  $\Psi$  is  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -dominant by  $\Psi'$ . If a real-valued function  $f$  is operator concave on an interval  $J$ , then*

$$\begin{aligned} & \beta(\Phi'(f(A)) - \Psi'(f(B)) - f(\Phi'(A) - \Psi'(B))) \\ & \leq \Phi(f(A)) - \Psi(f(B)) - f(\Phi(A) - \Psi(B)) \\ & \leq \alpha(\Phi'(f(A)) - \Psi'(f(B)) - f(\Phi'(A) - \Psi'(B))) \end{aligned}$$

for all selfadjoint operators  $A$  and  $B$  with  $\sigma(A), \sigma(B), \sigma(\Phi(A) - \Psi(B))$  and  $\sigma(\Phi'(A) - \Psi'(B)) \subset J$ .

*Proof.* Put  $\Phi_1(X) = \alpha X$ . Since  $\Phi$  is  $\alpha$ -lower dominant by  $\Phi'$  and  $\Psi$  is  $\alpha$ -upper dominant by  $\Psi'$ , and  $(\Phi - \alpha\Phi')(I) + (\alpha\Psi' - \Psi)(I) + \Phi_1(I) = I$ , it follows from the operator concavity of  $f$  that

$$\begin{aligned} f(\Phi(A) - \Psi(B)) &= f((\Phi - \alpha\Phi')(A) + (\alpha\Psi' - \Psi)(B) + \Phi_1(\Phi'(A) - \Psi'(B))) \\ &\geq (\Phi - \alpha\Phi')(f(A)) + (\alpha\Psi' - \Psi)(f(B)) + \Phi_1(f(\Phi'(A) - \Psi'(B))) \\ &= \Phi(f(A)) - \Psi(f(B)) - \alpha(f(\Phi'(A) - \Psi'(B)) - (\Phi'(f(A)) - \Psi'(f(B)))) \end{aligned}$$

for all selfadjoint operators  $A$  and  $B$  with  $\sigma(A), \sigma(B), \sigma(\Phi(A) - \Psi(B))$  and  $\sigma(\Phi'(A) - \Psi'(B)) \subset J$ . This fact implies the second half of Theorem 3.1. Similarly we have the first half of Theorem 3.1.  $\square$

Finally we show an application of Theorem 3.1. Put positive linear maps  $\Phi, \Psi, \Phi'$  and  $\Psi' : \mathcal{B}(H) \oplus \cdots \oplus \mathcal{B}(H) \mapsto \mathcal{B}(H)$  as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi(A_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus A_n) &= \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1 + \sum_{i=1}^n p_i}{n} A_i & \text{and} & \quad \Psi(A_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus A_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n p_i A_i, \\ \Phi'(A_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus A_n) &= \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1 + \sum_{i=1}^n q_i}{n} A_i & \text{and} & \quad \Psi'(A_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus A_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n q_i A_i, \end{aligned}$$

where  $p_i, q_i > 0$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . Then it follows that  $\Phi(I) - \Psi(I) = I$  and  $\Phi'(I) - \Psi'(I) = I$ . If we put  $\alpha = \max\{\frac{p_i}{q_i}\}$  and  $\frac{1 + \sum_{i=1}^n p_i}{1 + \sum_{i=1}^n q_i} > \alpha$ , then  $\Phi$  is  $\alpha$ -lower dominant of  $\Phi'$  and  $\Psi$  is  $\alpha$ -upper dominant of  $\Psi'$ . If we put  $\beta = \min\{\frac{p_i}{q_i}\}$  and  $\frac{1 + \sum_{i=1}^n p_i}{1 + \sum_{i=1}^n q_i} < \beta$ , then  $\Phi$  is  $\beta$ -upper dominant of  $\Phi'$  and  $\Psi$  is  $\beta$ -lower dominant of  $\Psi'$ . Hence by Theorem 3.1, we obtain the following external version of Corollary 2.2:

**COROLLARY 3.2.** *Let  $f$  be operator convex on an interval  $J$  and  $A$  and  $B_i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, n$ ) selfadjoint operators with  $\sigma(A), \sigma(B_i)$  and  $\sigma((1 + \sum_{i=1}^n p_i)A - \sum_{i=1}^n p_i B_i) \subset J$ .*



J. Let  $\alpha = \max\{\frac{p_i}{q_i}\}$  and  $\beta = \min\{\frac{p_i}{q_i}\}$ . If  $\beta > \frac{1+\sum p_i}{1+\sum q_i}$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} & \beta \left( f \left( \left(1 + \sum_{i=1}^n q_i\right)A - \sum_{i=1}^n q_i B_i \right) - \left( \left(1 + \sum_{i=1}^n q_i\right)f(A) - \sum_{i=1}^n q_i f(B_i) \right) \right) \\ & \leq f \left( \left(1 + \sum_{i=1}^n p_i\right)A - \sum_{i=1}^n p_i B_i \right) - \left( \left(1 + \sum_{i=1}^n p_i\right)f(A) - \sum_{i=1}^n p_i f(B_i) \right) \end{aligned}$$

and if  $\frac{1+\sum p_i}{1+\sum q_i} > \alpha$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} & f \left( \left(1 + \sum_{i=1}^n p_i\right)A - \sum_{i=1}^n p_i B_i \right) - \left( \left(1 + \sum_{i=1}^n p_i\right)f(A) - \sum_{i=1}^n p_i f(B_i) \right) \\ & \leq \alpha \left( f \left( \left(1 + \sum_{i=1}^n q_i\right)A - \sum_{i=1}^n q_i B_i \right) - \left( \left(1 + \sum_{i=1}^n q_i\right)f(A) - \sum_{i=1}^n q_i f(B_i) \right) \right). \end{aligned}$$

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