REVERSES OF OPERATOR HERMITE-HADAMARD INEQUALITIES

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ABSTRACT. Let f be an operator convex function on I and A, $B \in \mathcal{SA}_I(H)$, the convex set of selfadjoint operators with spectra in I. If $A \neq B$ and f, as an operator function, is Gâteaux differentiable on $[A,B] := \{(1-t)\,A + tB \mid t \in [0,1]\}$, then

$$0 \le \int_{0}^{1} f\left(\left(1 - t\right) A + tB\right) dt - f\left(\frac{A + B}{2}\right)$$
$$\le \frac{1}{8} \left[\nabla f_{B}\left(B - A\right) - \nabla f_{A}\left(B - A\right)\right]$$

and

$$0 \le \frac{f(A) + f(B)}{2} - \int_{0}^{1} f((1 - t) A + tB) dt$$

$$\le \frac{1}{8} \left[\nabla f_{B} (B - A) - \nabla f_{A} (B - A) \right].$$

Two particular examples of interest are also given.

1. Introduction

A real valued continuous function f on an interval I is said to be operator convex (operator concave) on I if

$$(1.1) f((1-\lambda)A + \lambda B) \le (\ge)(1-\lambda)f(A) + \lambda f(B)$$

in the operator order, for all $\lambda \in [0, 1]$ and for every selfadjoint operator A and B on a Hilbert space H whose spectra are contained in I. Notice that a function f is operator concave if -f is operator convex.

A real valued continuous function f on an interval I is said to be operator monotone if it is monotone with respect to the operator order, i.e., $A \leq B$ with $\operatorname{Sp}(A), \operatorname{Sp}(B) \subset I$ imply $f(A) \leq f(B)$.

For some fundamental results on operator convex (operator concave) and operator monotone functions, see [7] and the references therein.

As examples of such functions, we note that $f(t) = t^r$ is operator monotone on $[0,\infty)$ if and only if $0 \le r \le 1$. The function $f(t) = t^r$ is operator convex on $(0,\infty)$ if either $1 \le r \le 2$ or $-1 \le r \le 0$ and is operator concave on $(0,\infty)$ if $0 \le r \le 1$. The logarithmic function $f(t) = \ln t$ is operator monotone and operator concave on $(0,\infty)$. The entropy function $f(t) = -t \ln t$ is operator concave on $(0,\infty)$. The exponential function $f(t) = e^t$ is neither operator convex nor operator monotone.

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In [5] we obtained among others the following Hermite-Hadamard type inequalities for operator convex functions $f: I \to \mathbb{R}$

$$(1.2) f\left(\frac{A+B}{2}\right) \le \int_0^1 f\left((1-s)A + sB\right)ds \le \frac{f(A) + f(B)}{2},$$

where A, B are selfadjoint operators with spectra included in I.

For recent inequalities for operator convex functions see [1]-[6] and [8]-[17].

Motivated by the above results, in this paper we show among others that if $A \neq B$ and f is Gâteaux differentiable on $[A,B] := \{(1-t)\,A + tB \mid t \in [0,1]\}$, then

$$0 \le \int_0^1 f((1-t)A + tB) dt - f\left(\frac{A+B}{2}\right)$$
$$\le \frac{1}{8} \left[\nabla f_B(B-A) - \nabla f_A(B-A)\right]$$

and

$$0 \le \frac{f(A) + f(B)}{2} - \int_0^1 f((1 - t) A + tB) dt$$

$$\le \frac{1}{8} \left[\nabla f_B(B - A) - \nabla f_A(B - A) \right].$$

Two particular examples of interest for $f(x) = -\ln x$ and $f(x) = x^{-1}$ are also given.

2. Some Preliminary Facts

Let f be an operator convex function on I. For $(A, B) \in \mathcal{SA}_I(H)$, the class of all selfadjoint operators with spectra in I, we consider the auxiliary function $\varphi_{(A,B)}:[0,1] \to \mathcal{SA}_I(H)$ defined by

(2.1)
$$\varphi_{(A,B)}(t) := f((1-t)A + tB).$$

For $x \in H$ we can also consider the auxiliary function $\varphi_{(A,B);x}:[0,1] \to \mathbb{R}$ defined by

(2.2)
$$\varphi_{(A,B);x}(t) := \left\langle \varphi_{(A,B)}(t) x, x \right\rangle = \left\langle f\left((1-t) A + tB\right) x, x \right\rangle.$$

We have the following basic fact:

Lemma 1. Let f be an operator convex function on I. For any $(A, B) \in \mathcal{SA}_I(H)$, $\varphi_{(A,B)}$ is well defined and convex in the operator order. For any $(A, B) \in \mathcal{SA}_I(H)$ and $x \in H$ the function $\varphi_{(A,B);x}$ is convex in the usual sense on [0,1].

Proof. If $(A, B) \in \mathcal{SA}_I(H)$ and $t \in [0, 1]$ the convex combination (1 - t)A + tB is a selfadjoint operator with the spectrum in I showing that $\mathcal{SA}_I(H)$ in the Banach algebra $\mathcal{B}(H)$ of all bounded linear operators on H. By the continuous functional calculus of selfadjoint operator we also conclude that f((1 - t)A + tB) is a selfadjoint operator with spectrum in I.

Let $(A, B) \in \mathcal{SA}_I(H)$ and $t_1, t_2 \in [0, 1]$. If $\alpha, \beta > 0$ with $\alpha + \beta = 1$, then

$$\varphi_{(A,B)}(\alpha t_{1} + \beta t_{2}) := f((1 - \alpha t_{1} - \beta t_{2}) A + (\alpha t_{1} + \beta t_{2}) B)$$

$$= f((\alpha + \beta - \alpha t_{1} - \beta t_{2}) A + (\alpha t_{1} + \beta t_{2}) B)$$

$$= f(\alpha [(1 - t_{1}) A + t_{1} B] + \beta [(1 - t_{2}) A + t_{2} B])$$

$$\leq \alpha f((1 - t_{1}) A + t_{1} B) + \beta f((1 - t_{2}) A + t_{2} B)$$

$$= \alpha \varphi_{(A,B)}(t_{1}) + \beta \varphi_{(A,B)}(t_{2}),$$

which proves the convexity $\varphi_{(A,B)}$ in the operator order.

Ley $(A, B) \in \mathcal{SA}_I(H)$ and $x \in H$. If $t_1, t_2 \in [0, 1]$ and $\alpha, \beta > 0$ with $\alpha + \beta = 1$, then

$$\varphi_{(A,B);x}(\alpha t_1 + \beta t_2) = \left\langle \varphi_{(A,B)}(\alpha t_1 + \beta t_2) x, x \right\rangle
\leq \left\langle \left[\alpha \varphi_{(A,B)}(t_1) + \beta \varphi_{(A,B)}(t_2) \right] x, x \right\rangle
= \alpha \left\langle \varphi_{(A,B)}(t_1) x, x \right\rangle + \beta \left\langle \varphi_{(A,B)}(t_2) x, x \right\rangle
= \alpha \varphi_{(A,B);x}(t_1) + \beta \varphi_{(A,B);x}(t_2),$$

which proves the convexity of $\varphi_{(A,B):x}$ on [0,1].

A continuous function $g: \mathcal{SA}_I(H) \to \mathcal{B}(H)$ is said to be $G\hat{a}teaux$ differentiable in $A \in \mathcal{SA}_I(H)$ along the direction $B \in \mathcal{B}(H)$ if the following limit exists in the strong topology of $\mathcal{B}(H)$

(2.3)
$$\nabla g_A(B) := \lim_{s \to 0} \frac{g(A + sB) - g(A)}{s} \in \mathcal{B}(H).$$

If the limit (2.3) exists for all $B \in \mathcal{B}(H)$, then we say that f is $G\hat{a}teaux$ differentiable in A and we can write $g \in \mathcal{G}(A)$. If this is true for any A in an open set \mathcal{S} from $\mathcal{SA}_{I}(H)$ we write that $g \in \mathcal{G}(\mathcal{S})$.

If g is a continuous function on I, by utilising the continuous functional calculus the corresponding function of operators will be denoted in the same way.

For two distinct operators $A, B \in \mathcal{SA}_I(H)$ we consider the segment of selfadjoint operators

$$[A, B] := \{(1 - t) A + tB \mid t \in [0, 1]\}.$$

We observe that $A, B \in [A, B]$ and $[A, B] \subset \mathcal{SA}_I(H)$.

Lemma 2. Let f be an operator convex function on I and $(A, B) \in \mathcal{SA}_I(H)$, with $A \neq B$. If $f \in \mathcal{G}([A, B])$, then the auxiliary function $\varphi_{(A,B)}$ is differentiable on (0,1) and

(2.4)
$$\varphi'_{(A,B)}(t) = \nabla f_{(1-t)A+tB}(B-A).$$

Also we have for the lateral derivative that

(2.5)
$$\varphi'_{(A|B)}(0+) = \nabla f_A(B-A)$$

(2.6)
$$\varphi'_{(A,B)}(1-) = \nabla f_B(B-A).$$

Proof. Let $t \in (0,1)$ and $h \neq 0$ small enough such that $t+h \in (0,1)$. Then

(2.7)
$$\frac{\varphi_{(A,B)}(t+h) - \varphi_{(A,B)}(t)}{h} = \frac{f((1-t-h)A + (t+h)B) - f((1-t)A + tB)}{h} = \frac{f((1-t)A + tB + h(B-A)) - f((1-t)A + tB)}{h}.$$

Since $f \in \mathcal{G}([A, B])$, hence by taking the limit over $h \to 0$ in (2.7) we get

$$\varphi'_{(A,B)}(t) = \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{\varphi_{(A,B)}(t+h) - \varphi_{(A,B)}(t)}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{f((1-t)A + tB + h(B-A)) - f((1-t)A + tB)}{h}$$

$$= \nabla g_{(1-t)A + tB}(B-A),$$

which proves (2.8).

Also, we have

$$\varphi'_{(A,B)}(0+) = \lim_{h \to 0+} \frac{\varphi_{(A,B)}(h) - \varphi_{(A,B)}(0)}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \to 0+} \frac{f((1-h)A + hB) - f(A)}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \to 0+} \frac{f(A + h(B - A)) - f(A)}{h}$$

$$= \nabla f_A(B - A)$$

since f is assumed to be Gâteaux differentiable in A. This proves (2.5).

The equality (2.6) follows in a similar way.

Lemma 3. Let f be an operator convex function on I and $(A, B) \in \mathcal{SA}_I(H)$, with $A \neq B$. If $f \in \mathcal{G}([A, B])$, then for $0 < t_1 < t_2 < 1$ we have

$$(2.8) \nabla g_{(1-t_1)A+t_1B}(B-A) \le \nabla g_{(1-t_2)A+t_2B}(B-A)$$

in the operator order.

We also have

(2.9)
$$\nabla f_A(B-A) \le \nabla g_{(1-t_1)A+t_1B}(B-A)$$

and

(2.10)
$$\nabla g_{(1-t_2)A+t_2B}(B-A) \le \nabla f_B(B-A).$$

Proof. Let $x \in H$. The auxiliary function $\varphi_{(A,B);x}$ is convex in the usual sense on [0,1] and differentiable on (0,1) and for $t \in (0,1)$

$$\varphi'_{(A,B),x}(t) = \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{\varphi_{(A,B),x}(t+h) - \varphi_{(A,B),x}(t)}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \to 0} \left\langle \frac{\varphi_{(A,B)}(t+h) - \varphi_{(A,B)}(t)}{h} x, x \right\rangle$$

$$= \left\langle \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{\varphi_{(A,B)}(t+h) - \varphi_{(A,B)}(t)}{h} x, x \right\rangle$$

$$= \left\langle \nabla g_{(1-t)A+tB}(B-A) x, x \right\rangle.$$

Since for $0 < t_1 < t_2 < 1$ we have by the gadient inequality for scalar convex functions that

$$\varphi'_{(A,B),x}(t_1) \le \varphi'_{(A,B),x}(t_2)$$

then we get

$$\langle \nabla g_{(1-t_1)A+t_1B} (B-A) x, x \rangle \le \langle \nabla g_{(1-t_2)A+t_2B} (B-A) x, x \rangle$$

for all $x \in H$, which is equivalent to the inequality (2.8) in the operator order.

Let $0 < t_1 < 1$. By the gadient inequality for scalar convex functions we also have

$$\varphi'_{(A,B),x}\left(0+\right) \leq \varphi'_{(A,B),x}\left(t_{1}\right),$$

which, as above implies that

$$\langle \nabla f_A (B - A) x, x \rangle \le \langle \nabla g_{(1-t_1)A+t_1B} (B - A) x, x \rangle$$

for all $x \leq H$, that is equivalent to the operator inequality (2.9).

The inequality (2.10) follows in a similar way.

Corollary 1. Let f be an operator convex function on I and $(A, B) \in \mathcal{SA}_I(H)$, with $A \neq B$. If $f \in \mathcal{G}([A, B])$, then for all $t \in (0, 1)$ we have

$$(2.12) \nabla f_A(B-A) \leq \nabla f_{(1-t)A+tB}(B-A) \leq \nabla f_B(B-A).$$

3. Reverses of Operator Hermite-Hadamard Inequalities

It is well known that, if E is a Banach space and $f:[0,1] \to E$ is a continuous function, then f is Bochner integrable, and its Bochner integral coincides with its Riemann integral. We denote this integral as usual by $\int_0^1 f(t) dt$.

We have the following reverse of the first operator Hermite-Hadamard inequality:

Theorem 1. Let f be an operator convex function on I and A, $B \in \mathcal{SA}_I(H)$, with $A \neq B$. If $f \in \mathcal{G}([A, B])$, then

(3.1)
$$0 \le \int_0^1 f((1-t)A + tB) dt - f\left(\frac{A+B}{2}\right) \\ \le \frac{1}{8} \left[\nabla f_B(B-A) - \nabla f_A(B-A)\right].$$

Proof. Using integration by parts formula for the Bochner integral, we have

(3.2)
$$\int_{0}^{1/2} t \varphi'_{(A,B)}(t) dt = \frac{1}{2} \varphi_{(A,B)} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right) - \int_{0}^{1/2} \varphi_{(A,B)}(t) dt$$
$$= \frac{1}{2} f\left(\frac{A+B}{2}\right) - \int_{0}^{1/2} f\left((1-t)A + tB\right) dt$$

$$(3.3) \int_{1/2}^{1} (t-1) \varphi'_{(A,B)}(t) dt = \frac{1}{2} \varphi_{(A,B)} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right) - \int_{1/2}^{1} f((1-t) A + tB) dt$$
$$= \frac{1}{2} f\left(\frac{A+B}{2}\right) - \int_{1/2}^{1} f((1-t) A + tB) dt.$$

If we add these two equalities, we get the following identity of interest

(3.4)
$$\int_{0}^{1} f((1-t)A + tB) dt - f\left(\frac{A+B}{2}\right)$$
$$= \int_{1/2}^{1} (1-t) \varphi'_{(A,B)}(t) dt - \int_{0}^{1/2} t \varphi'_{(A,B)}(t) dt.$$

From Lemma 3 we have

(3.5)
$$\varphi'_{(A,B)}(1/2) \le \varphi'_{(A,B)}(t) \le \varphi'_{(A,B)}(1-) = \nabla f_B(B-A), \ t \in [1/2,1)$$

and

(3.6)
$$\nabla f_A(B-A) = \varphi'_{(A,B)}(0+) \le \varphi'_{(A,B)}(t) \le \varphi'_{(A,B)}(1/2), \ t \in (0,1/2],$$

This implies that

$$(1-t)\,\varphi'_{(A,B)}\,(1/2) \le (1-t)\,\varphi'_{(A,B)}\,(t) \le (1-t)\,\nabla f_B\,(B-A)$$

for $t \in [1/2, 1)$ and

$$-t\varphi'_{(A,B)}(1/2) \le -t\varphi'_{(A,B)}(t) \le -t\nabla f_A(B-A)$$

for $t \in (0, 1/2]$.

By integrating these inequalities on the corresponding intervals, we get

$$\frac{1}{8}\varphi'_{(A,B)}(1/2) \le \int_{1/2}^{1} (1-t)\,\varphi'_{(A,B)}(t)\,dt \le \frac{1}{8}\nabla f_B(B-A)$$

and

$$-\frac{1}{8}\varphi'_{(A,B)}(1/2) \le -\int_0^{1/2} t\varphi'_{(A,B)}(t) dt \le -\frac{1}{8}\nabla f_A(B-A).$$

By addition, we deduce that

$$0 \le \int_{1/2}^{1} (1 - t) \, \varphi'_{(A,B)}(t) - \int_{0}^{1/2} t \varphi'_{(A,B)}(t) \, dt$$
$$\le \frac{1}{8} \left[\nabla f_{B}(B - A) - \nabla f_{A}(B - A) \right]$$

and by the identity (3.4) we get (3.1).

We have the following reverse of the second operator Hermite-Hadamard inequality:

Theorem 2. Let f be an operator convex function on I and A, $B \in \mathcal{SA}_I(H)$, with $A \neq B$. If $f \in \mathcal{G}([A, B])$, then

(3.7)
$$0 \le \frac{f(A) + f(B)}{2} - \int_{0}^{1} f((1-t)A + tB) dt$$
$$\le \frac{1}{8} \left[\nabla f_{B}(B-A) - \nabla f_{A}(B-A) \right].$$

Proof. Using integration by parts formula for the Bochner integral, we have

(3.8)
$$\int_{0}^{1} \left(t - \frac{1}{2}\right) \varphi'_{(A,B)}(t) dt = \left(t - \frac{1}{2}\right) \varphi_{(A,B)}(t) \Big]_{0}^{1} - \int_{0}^{1} \varphi_{(A,B)}(t) dt$$
$$= \frac{\varphi_{(A,B)}(1) + \varphi_{(A,B)}(0)}{2} - \int_{0}^{1} \varphi_{(A,B)}(t)$$
$$= \frac{f(B) + f(A)}{2} - \int_{0}^{1} f((1-t)A + tB) dt.$$

Observe that

(3.9)
$$\int_{0}^{1} \left(t - \frac{1}{2}\right) \varphi'_{(A,B)}(t) dt$$
$$= \int_{1/2}^{1} \left(t - \frac{1}{2}\right) \varphi'_{(A,B)}(t) dt - \int_{0}^{1/2} \left(\frac{1}{2} - t\right) \varphi'_{(A,B)}(t) dt.$$

Therefore, we have the following identity of interest

$$\frac{f(B) + f(A)}{2} - \int_0^1 f((1-t)A + tB) dt$$

$$= \int_{1/2}^1 \left(t - \frac{1}{2}\right) \varphi'_{(A,B)}(t) dt - \int_0^{1/2} \left(\frac{1}{2} - t\right) \varphi'_{(A,B)}(t) dt.$$

From the inequality (3.5) we obtain

$$\left(t - \frac{1}{2}\right) \varphi'_{(A,B)}(1/2) \le \left(t - \frac{1}{2}\right) \varphi'_{(A,B)}(t)$$

$$\le \left(t - \frac{1}{2}\right) \nabla f_B(B - A), \ t \in [1/2, 1)$$

and from (3.6)

$$\left(\frac{1}{2} - t\right) \nabla f_A \left(B - A\right) \le \left(\frac{1}{2} - t\right) \varphi'_{(A,B)} \left(t\right)$$

$$\le \left(\frac{1}{2} - t\right) \varphi'_{(A,B)} \left(1/2\right), \ t \in (0, 1/2],$$

namely

$$-\left(\frac{1}{2}-t\right)\varphi'_{(A,B)}(1/2) \le -\left(\frac{1}{2}-t\right)\varphi'_{(A,B)}(t)$$

$$\le -\left(\frac{1}{2}-t\right)\nabla f_A(B-A), \ t \in (0,1/2].$$

Integrating these inequalities on the corresponding intervals, we get

$$\frac{1}{8}\varphi'_{(A,B)}(1/2) \le \int_{1/2}^{1} \left(t - \frac{1}{2}\right) \varphi'_{(A,B)}(t) dt \le \frac{1}{8} \nabla f_B(B - A),$$

$$-\frac{1}{8}\varphi'_{(A,B)}(1/2) \le -\int_{0}^{1/2} \left(\frac{1}{2} - t\right) \varphi'_{(A,B)}(t) dt \le -\frac{1}{8}\nabla f_{A}(B - A).$$

If we add these two inequalities, we obtain

$$0 \le \int_{1/2}^{1} \left(t - \frac{1}{2} \right) \varphi'_{(A,B)}(t) dt - \int_{0}^{1/2} \left(\frac{1}{2} - t \right) \varphi'_{(A,B)}(t) dt$$

$$\le \frac{1}{8} \left[\nabla f_B(B - A) - \nabla f_A(B - A) \right],$$

which, by the use of identity (3.9) produces the desired result (3.7).

Remark 1. It is well known that, if h is a C^1 -function defined on an open interval, then the operator function h(X) is Fréchet differentiable and the derivative Dh(A)(B) equals the Gâteaux derivative $\nabla f_A(B)$. So for operator convex functions f that are of class C^1 on I we have the inequalities

(3.10)
$$0 \le \int_{0}^{1} f((1-t)A + tB) dt - f\left(\frac{A+B}{2}\right)$$
$$\le \frac{1}{8} \left[Df(B)(B-A) - Df(A)(B-A) \right]$$

and

(3.11)
$$0 \le \frac{f(A) + f(B)}{2} - \int_{0}^{1} f((1-t)A + tB) dt$$
$$\le \frac{1}{8} [Df(B)(B-A) - Df(A)(B-A)]$$

for all $A, B \in \mathcal{SA}_I(H)$.

4. Some Examples

We note that the function $f(x) = -\ln x$ is operator convex on $(0, \infty)$. The ln function is operator Gâteaux differentiable with the following explicit formula for the derivative (cf. Pedersen [12, p. 155]):

(4.1)
$$\nabla \ln_T (S) = \int_0^\infty (s1_H + T)^{-1} S (s1_H + T)^{-1} ds$$

for T, S > 0

If we write the inequalities (3.1) and (3.7) for $-\ln$ we get

$$(4.2) 0 \le \ln\left(\frac{A+B}{2}\right) - \int_0^1 \ln\left((1-t)A + tB\right)dt$$

$$\le \frac{1}{8} \left[\int_0^\infty (s1_H + A)^{-1} (B-A) (s1_H + A)^{-1} ds - \int_0^\infty (s1_H + B)^{-1} (B-A) (s1_H + B)^{-1} ds \right]$$

$$(4.3) 0 \leq \int_0^1 \ln\left((1-t)A + tB\right)dt - \frac{\ln A + \ln B}{2}$$

$$\leq \frac{1}{8} \left[\int_0^\infty (s1_H + A)^{-1} (B - A) (s1_H + A)^{-1} ds - \int_0^\infty (s1_H + B)^{-1} (B - A) (s1_H + B)^{-1} ds \right]$$

for all A, B > 0.

The function $f(x) = x^{-1}$ is also operator convex on $(0, \infty)$, operator Gâteaux differentiable and

$$\nabla f_T(S) = -T^{-1}ST^{-1}$$

for T, S > 0.

If we write the inequalities (3.1) and (3.7) for this function, then we get

$$(4.4) 0 \le \int_0^1 ((1-t)A + tB)^{-1} dt - \left(\frac{A+B}{2}\right)^{-1}$$

$$\le \frac{1}{8} \left[A^{-1} (B-A)A^{-1} - B^{-1} (B-A)B^{-1} \right]$$

and

(4.5)
$$0 \le \frac{A^{-1} + B^{-1}}{2} - \int_0^1 ((1 - t) A + tB)^{-1} dt$$
$$\le \frac{1}{8} \left[A^{-1} (B - A) A^{-1} - B^{-1} (B - A) B^{-1} \right]$$

for all A, B > 0.

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