



## Interpolating numerical radius inequalities for positive semidefinite block matrices

Aliaa Burqan<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Mathematics, Zarqa University, Zarqa, Jordan

**Abstract.** In this article, we derive several numerical radius interpolation inequalities related to positive semidefinite block matrices by employing matrix convex function features. In particular, we show that if

$A, B, C \in \mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$  are such that  $B$  is normal and  $\begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ B^* & C \end{bmatrix} \geq 0$ , then

$$w^{2r}(B) \leq \left\| \int_0^1 \left( (1-t)(\alpha A^{\frac{r}{\alpha}} + (1-\alpha)C^{\frac{r}{1-\alpha}}) + tw^{2r}(B)I \right)^2 dt \right\|^{1/2} \leq \left\| \alpha A^{\frac{r}{\alpha}} + (1-\alpha)C^{\frac{r}{1-\alpha}} \right\|$$

for  $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1, r \geq 1$ .

### 1. Introduction

Let  $\mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$  denote the space of  $n \times n$  complex matrices. A Hermitian matrix  $A \in \mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$  is called positive semidefinite if  $\langle Ax, x \rangle \geq 0$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{C}^n$ . To indicate that  $A$  is positive semidefinite, we write  $A \geq 0$ . We write  $A \geq B$  to indicate that  $A - B$  is positive semidefinite for Hermitian matrices  $A, B \in \mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$ . A real-valued function  $g(t)$  on  $[0, \infty)$  is said to be matrix monotone if for all  $A, B \in \mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C}), A \geq B \geq 0$  implies  $g(A) \geq g(B)$  and it is said to be matrix convex if

$$g((1-\alpha)A + \alpha B) \leq (1-\alpha)g(A) + \alpha g(B),$$

for all Hermitian matrices  $A, B \in \mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$ , and for all real numbers  $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$ . On the other hand, a function  $g: J \rightarrow (0, \infty)$ , where  $J$  is a subinterval of  $(0, \infty)$ , is said to be geometrically convex if

$$g(a^{1-\alpha}b^\alpha) \leq g^{1-\alpha}(a)g^\alpha(b)$$

for all real numbers  $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$ .

The topic of comparison of matrices has been the subject of current research because of its significance in numerous mathematical fields, such as mathematical analysis, operator theory, and mathematical physics.

A norm  $N(\cdot)$  on  $\mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$  is said to be unitarily invariant if it has the basic property  $N(UAV) = N(A)$ , where  $A \in \mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$  and  $U, V \in \mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$  are unitary, it is called weakly unitarily invariant if  $N(UAU^*) = N(A)$ , where

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*Email address*: aliaaburqan@zu.edu.jo (Aliaa Burqan)

$A \in \mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$  and  $U \in \mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$  is unitary, and it is called normalized if  $N(\text{diag}(1, 0, \dots, 0)) = 1$ . Examples of such norms are the usual operator norm defined by  $\|A\| = \max_{\|x\|=1} \|Ax\| = s_1(A)$ , where  $s_1(A) \geq s_2(A) \geq \dots \geq s_n(A)$  are the singular values of  $A$ , that is, the eigenvalues of the positive semidefinite matrix  $|A| = (A^*A)^{1/2}$ , arranged in decreasing order and repeated according to multiplicity.

For  $A \in \mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$ , the numerical radius of  $A$  is defined by

$$w(A) = \max \{ |\langle Ax, x \rangle| : x \in \mathbb{C}^n, \|x\| = 1 \}.$$

It is well known that  $w(\cdot)$  defines a norm on  $\mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$ . In fact, for every  $A \in \mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$ , we have

$$w(A) \leq \|A\| \leq 2w(A),$$

which indicates that the numerical radius and the operator norm are equivalent. The norm  $w(\cdot)$  is self-adjoint and weakly unitarily invariant, but it is not unitarily invariant.

A useful identity for the numerical radii of matrices was given in [14] as follows:

$$w(A) = \max_{\theta \in \mathbb{R}} \left\| \text{Re}(e^{i\theta} A) \right\|.$$

Abu-Omar and Kittaneh [1] defined the generalized numerical radius induced by a norm  $N(\cdot)$  on  $\mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$  by

$$w_N(A) = \max_{\theta \in \mathbb{R}} N(\text{Re}(e^{i\theta} A))$$

for every  $A \in \mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$ .

Several generalizations of the numerical radius have been discussed in [2], [3], [5], [13], [15], and references therein.

Established matrix inequalities involving positive semidefinite block matrices of the form  $P = \begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ B^* & C \end{bmatrix}$ , where  $A, B, C \in \mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$  is one of the issues that have attracted the interest of scholars in recent years.

An estimation of the numerical radius of the off-diagonal part of  $P$  was given by Burqan and Al-Saafin [6] as follows:

$$w(B) \leq \frac{1}{2} \|A + C\|. \quad (1)$$

Burqan and Abu-Rahma [7] generalized the inequality (1) as follows:

$$w^r(B) \leq \frac{1}{2} \|A^r + C^r\| \text{ for } r \geq 1. \quad (2)$$

An interesting generalization of the inequality (2) was introduced by Burqan, Alkhalely, and Conde [8] as follows:

$$w^{2r}(B) \leq \left\| \alpha A^{\frac{r}{\alpha}} + (1 - \alpha) C^{\frac{r}{1-\alpha}} \right\| \text{ for } r \geq 1, 0 \leq \alpha \leq 1. \quad (3)$$

Moreover, Al-Naddaf, Burqan, and Kittaneh [9] generalized the inequality (1) for all normalized unitarily invariant norm  $N(\cdot)$  as follows:

$$g(2w_N(B)) \leq N(g(A) + g(C)), \quad (4)$$

where  $g(t)$  is a non-negative matrix monotone function on  $[0, \infty)$ .

The primary objective of this paper is to propose new interpolation inequalities of the aforementioned inequalities via the use of the characteristics of matrix convex functions.

## 2. Lemmas

The following lemmas are essential to obtain and prove our results. The first lemma is a norm inequality for matrix monotone functions and can be found in [11]. The second lemma has been proved in [4]. Hermite-Hadamard's type inequalities for matrix convex functions of Hermitian matrices is presented in the third lemma (see [10]). The fourth lemma is a Cauchy-Schwarz inequality including block positive semidefinite matrices (see [16]). The fifth lemma is derived from Jensen's inequality and the spectral theorem for positive semidefinite matrices (see [12]).

**Lemma 2.1.** Let  $g(t)$  be a non-negative matrix monotone function on  $[0, \infty)$  and let  $N(\cdot)$  be a normalized unitarily invariant norm on  $\mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$ . Then for every  $A \in \mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$ ,

$$g(N(A)) \leq N(g(|A|)).$$

**Lemma 2.2.** Let  $g(t)$  be a non-negative matrix monotone function on  $[0, \infty)$  and let  $N(\cdot)$  be a unitarily invariant norm on  $\mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$ . Then for every positive semidefinite  $A, C \in \mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$ ,

$$N(g(A + C)) \leq N(g(A) + g(C)).$$

**Lemma 2.3.** Let  $g : J \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a matrix convex function on an interval  $J$ . Let  $A, C \in \mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$  be Hermitian matrices with spectra in  $J$ . Then

$$g\left(\frac{A + C}{2}\right) \leq \int_0^1 g((1-t)A + tC) dt \leq \frac{1}{2}(g(A) + g(C)).$$

If  $g(t)$  is non-negative, then the matrix inequality can be reduced to the following norm inequality

$$N\left(g\left(\frac{A + C}{2}\right)\right) \leq N\left(\int_0^1 g((1-t)A + tC) dt\right) \leq \frac{1}{2}N(g(A) + g(C)). \quad (5)$$

**Lemma 2.4.** Let  $A, B, C \in \mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$  be such that  $\begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ B^* & C \end{bmatrix} \geq 0$ . Then

$$|\langle Bx, y \rangle|^2 \leq \langle Ax, x \rangle \langle Cy, y \rangle \text{ for } x, y \in \mathbb{C}^n.$$

**Lemma 2.5.** Let  $A \in \mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$  be positive semidefinite and  $x \in \mathbb{C}^n$  with  $\|x\| = 1$ . Then

$$\langle Ax, x \rangle^r \leq \langle A^r x, x \rangle \text{ for } r \geq 1.$$

## 3. Main Results

At the beginning of this section, we introduce interpolation and generalization inequalities of Inequality (3) using Hermite-Hadamard's type inequalities for matrix convex functions of Hermitian matrices.

**Theorem 3.1.** Let  $A, B, C \in \mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$  be such that  $B$  is normal and  $\begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ B^* & C \end{bmatrix} \geq 0$ . If  $g(t)$  is a non-negative increasing matrix convex function on  $[0, \infty)$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} g(w^{2r}(B)) &\leq \left\| \int_0^1 g\left((1-t)\left(\alpha A^{\frac{t}{\alpha}} + (1-\alpha)C^{\frac{t}{1-\alpha}}\right) + tw^{2r}(B)I\right) dt \right\| \\ &\leq \left\| g\left(\alpha A^{\frac{r}{\alpha}} + (1-\alpha)C^{\frac{r}{1-\alpha}}\right) \right\| \end{aligned}$$

for  $r \geq 1, 0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$ .

*Proof.* Using the fact

$$\left\| \alpha A^{\frac{r}{\alpha}} + (1 - \alpha) C^{\frac{r}{1-\alpha}} + w^{2r}(B)I \right\| = \left\| \alpha A^{\frac{r}{\alpha}} + (1 - \alpha) C^{\frac{r}{1-\alpha}} \right\| + w^{2r}(B), \tag{6}$$

Inequality (3) and Equality (6) yield that

$$2w^{2r}(B) \leq \left\| \alpha A^{\frac{r}{\alpha}} + (1 - \alpha) C^{\frac{r}{1-\alpha}} + w^{2r}(B)I \right\|$$

and so,

$$g(w^{2r}(B)) \leq g\left(\left\| \frac{\alpha A^{\frac{r}{\alpha}} + (1 - \alpha) C^{\frac{r}{1-\alpha}} + w^{2r}(B)I}{2} \right\|\right)$$

for any increasing function  $g(t)$  on  $[0, \infty)$ . Thus, Lemma 2.1 implies that

$$g(w^{2r}(B)) \leq \left\| g\left(\frac{\alpha A^{\frac{r}{\alpha}} + (1 - \alpha) C^{\frac{r}{1-\alpha}} + w^{2r}(B)I}{2}\right) \right\|.$$

Inequality (5), Equality (6), and Inequality (3), respectively introduce

$$\begin{aligned} g(w^{2r}(B)) &\leq \left\| g\left(\frac{\alpha A^{\frac{r}{\alpha}} + (1 - \alpha) C^{\frac{r}{1-\alpha}} + w^{2r}(B)I}{2}\right) \right\| \\ &\leq \left\| \int_0^1 g((1-t)(\alpha A^{\frac{r}{\alpha}} + (1 - \alpha) C^{\frac{r}{1-\alpha}}) + tw^{2r}(B)I) dt \right\| \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2} \left\| g(\alpha A^{\frac{r}{\alpha}} + (1 - \alpha) C^{\frac{r}{1-\alpha}}) + g(w^{2r}(B)I) \right\| \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left( \left\| g(\alpha A^{\frac{r}{\alpha}} + (1 - \alpha) C^{\frac{r}{1-\alpha}}) \right\| + g(w^{2r}(B)) \right) \\ &\leq \left\| g(\alpha A^{\frac{r}{\alpha}} + (1 - \alpha) C^{\frac{r}{1-\alpha}}) \right\|. \end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof.  $\square$

The following corollary is an immediate consequence of Theorem 3.1 by considering  $g(t) = t^2$ .

**Corollary 3.2.** Let  $A, B, C \in \mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$  be such that  $B$  is normal and  $\begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ B^* & C \end{bmatrix} \geq 0$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} w^{2r}(B) &\leq \left\| \int_0^1 ((1-t)(\alpha A^{\frac{r}{\alpha}} + (1 - \alpha) C^{\frac{r}{1-\alpha}}) + tw^{2r}(B)I)^2 dt \right\|^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &\leq \left\| \alpha A^{\frac{r}{\alpha}} + (1 - \alpha) C^{\frac{r}{1-\alpha}} \right\| \end{aligned}$$

for  $r \geq 1, 0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$ .

Again applying Inequality (5), we get another improvements of Inequality (3).

**Theorem 3.3.** Let  $A, B, C \in \mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$  be such that  $B$  is normal and  $\begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ B^* & C \end{bmatrix} \geq 0$ . If  $g(t)$  is a non-negative increasing matrix convex function on  $[0, \infty)$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} g(w^{2r}(B)) &\leq \left\| \int_0^1 g(2(1-t)(\alpha A^{\frac{r}{\alpha}}) + 2t(1 - \alpha) C^{\frac{r}{1-\alpha}}) dt \right\| \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2} \left\| g(2\alpha A^{\frac{r}{\alpha}}) + g(2(1 - \alpha) C^{\frac{r}{1-\alpha}}) \right\| \end{aligned}$$

for  $r \geq 1, 0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$ .

Considering  $g(t) = t$  in Theorem 3.3, we get the following corollary.

**Corollary 3.4.** Let  $A, B, C \in \mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$  be such that  $B$  is normal and  $\begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ B^* & C \end{bmatrix} \geq 0$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} w^{2r}(B) &\leq 2 \left\| \int_0^1 (1-t) (\alpha A^{\frac{t}{\alpha}}) + t(1-\alpha) C^{\frac{t}{1-\alpha}} dt \right\| \\ &\leq \left\| \alpha A^{\frac{t}{\alpha}} + (1-\alpha) C^{\frac{t}{1-\alpha}} \right\| \end{aligned}$$

for  $r \geq 1, 0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$ .

In the following theorem, we get a refinement of Inequality (4).

**Theorem 3.5.** Let  $A, B, C \in \mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$  be such that  $B$  is normal and  $\begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ B^* & C \end{bmatrix} \geq 0$ . If  $g(t)$  is a non-negative matrix monotone and convex function on  $[0, \infty)$ , then

$$g(w_N(B)) \leq N \left( \int_0^1 g((1-t)A + tC) dt \right) \leq N \left( \frac{g(A) + g(C)}{2} \right)$$

for every normalized unitarily invariant norm  $N(\cdot)$ .

*Proof.* Since  $g(t)$  is a non-negative matrix monotone function, from Inequality (4) we get

$$g(w_N(B)) \leq g \left( N \left( \frac{A+C}{2} \right) \right).$$

Lemma 2.1 yields that

$$g \left( N \left( \frac{A+C}{2} \right) \right) \leq N \left( g \left( \frac{A+C}{2} \right) \right).$$

Thus, by applying Lemma 2.3, we have

$$\begin{aligned} g(w_N(B)) &\leq N \left( g \left( \frac{A+C}{2} \right) \right) \leq N \left( \int_0^1 g((1-t)A + tC) dt \right) \\ &\leq N \left( \frac{g(A) + g(C)}{2} \right). \end{aligned}$$

□

Using the fact  $\begin{bmatrix} A & A^{1/2}B^{1/2} \\ B^{1/2}A^{1/2} & B \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A^{1/2} & 0 \\ B^{1/2} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A^{1/2} & 0 \\ B^{1/2} & 0 \end{bmatrix}^* \geq 0$  for any positive semidefinite matrices  $A, B \in \mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$ , Theorem 3.1, Theorem 3.3, and Theorem 3.5 produce the following results.

**Corollary 3.6.** Let  $A, B \in \mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$  be positive semidefinite matrices and let  $g(t)$  be a non-negative increasing matrix convex function on  $[0, \infty)$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} g(w^{2r}(A^{1/2}B^{1/2})) &\leq \left\| \int_0^1 g((1-t) (\alpha A^{\frac{t}{\alpha}} + (1-\alpha) B^{\frac{t}{1-\alpha}}) + t w^{2r}(A^{1/2}B^{1/2}) I) dt \right\| \\ &\leq \left\| g(\alpha A^{\frac{t}{\alpha}} + (1-\alpha) B^{\frac{t}{1-\alpha}}) \right\| \end{aligned}$$

for  $r \geq 1, 0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$ .

**Corollary 3.7.** Let  $A, B \in \mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$  be positive semidefinite matrices and let  $g(t)$  be a non-negative increasing matrix convex function on  $[0, \infty)$ . Then

$$g(w^{2r}(A^{1/2}B^{1/2})) \leq \left\| \int_0^1 g(2(1-t)(\alpha A^{\frac{t}{\alpha}}) + 2t(1-\alpha)B^{\frac{t}{1-\alpha}}) dt \right\|$$

$$\leq \frac{1}{2} \left\| g(2\alpha A^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}) + g(2(1-\alpha)B^{\frac{1}{1-\alpha}}) \right\|$$

for  $r \geq 1, 0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$ .

**Corollary 3.8.** Let  $A, B \in \mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$  be positive semidefinite matrices and let  $g(t)$  be a non-negative matrix monotone and convex function on  $[0, \infty)$ . Then

$$g(w_N(A^{1/2}B^{1/2})) \leq N\left(\int_0^1 g((1-t)A + tB) dt\right) \leq N\left(\frac{g(A) + g(B)}{2}\right)$$

for every normalized unitarily invariant norm  $N(\cdot)$ .

In particular, for  $g(t) = t$  and  $N(\cdot) = \|\cdot\|$ , we have

$$w(A^{1/2}B^{1/2}) \leq \left\| \int_0^1 ((1-t)A + tB) dt \right\| \leq \frac{1}{2} \|A + B\|.$$

**Theorem 3.9.** Let  $A, B, C \in \mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$  be such that  $\begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ B^* & C \end{bmatrix} \geq 0$  and let  $g(t)$  be an increasing geometrically convex function on  $(0, \infty)$ . If in addition  $g$  is convex and  $g(1) = 1$ , then

$$g^2(w(B)) \leq \frac{1}{2} \left\| g(A^2) + g(C^2) \right\|.$$

*Proof.* For any unit vector  $x \in \mathbb{C}^n$ , Lemma 2.4 and the arithmetic-geometric mean inequality imply that

$$|\langle Bx, x \rangle| \leq (\langle Ax, x \rangle \langle Cx, x \rangle)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$\leq \left( \frac{\langle Ax, x \rangle^2 + \langle Cx, x \rangle^2}{2} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

Considering the given assumptions for the function  $g(t)$  and Lemma 2.5, we have

$$g(|\langle Bx, x \rangle|) \leq g\left(\left(\frac{\langle Ax, x \rangle^2 + \langle Cx, x \rangle^2}{2}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}\right)$$

$$\leq g^{\frac{1}{2}}\left(\frac{\langle Ax, x \rangle^2 + \langle Cx, x \rangle^2}{2}\right) g^{\frac{1}{2}}(1)$$

$$\leq \left(\frac{g(\langle Ax, x \rangle^2) + g(\langle Cx, x \rangle^2)}{2}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$\leq \left(\frac{g(\langle A^2x, x \rangle) + g(\langle C^2x, x \rangle)}{2}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$\leq \left(\frac{\langle g(A^2)x, x \rangle + \langle g(C^2)x, x \rangle}{2}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$= \left(\frac{\langle (g(A^2) + g(C^2))x, x \rangle}{2}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} g(w(B)) &= g(\max_{\|x\|=1} |\langle Bx, x \rangle|) = \max_{\|x\|=1} g(|\langle Bx, x \rangle|) \\ &\leq \max_{\|x\|=1} \left( \frac{\langle (g(A^2) + g(C^2))x, x \rangle}{2} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} = \left( \frac{\max_{\|x\|=1} \langle (g(A^2) + g(C^2))x, x \rangle}{2} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &= \left( \frac{1}{2} \|g(A^2) + g(C^2)\| \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}. \end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof.  $\square$

Inequality (2) is a special case of Theorem 3.9 since the function  $g(t) = t^r, r \geq 1$  satisfies the assumptions of Theorem 3.9.

#### Declarations

**Conflict of interest** The author declares that he has no conflict of interest.

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