



South African
Quantum
Technology
Initiative

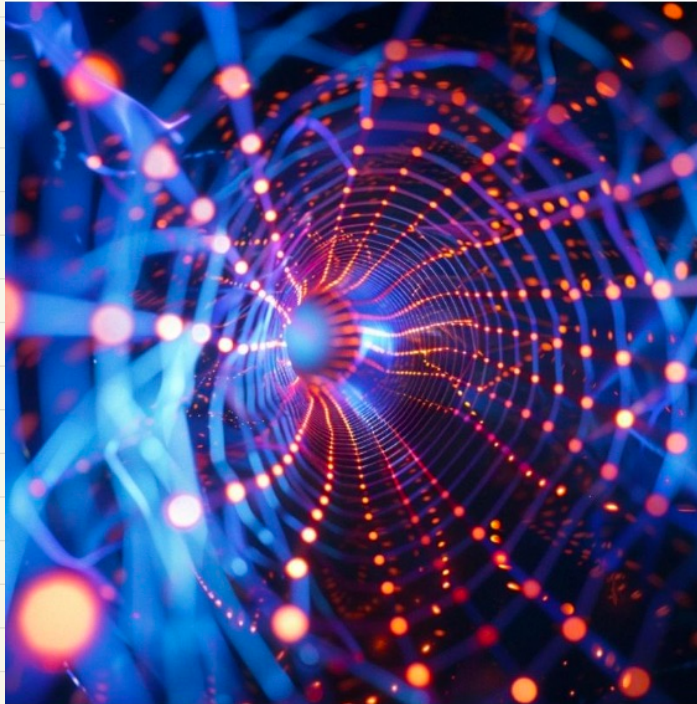
NITheCS

National Institute for
Theoretical and Computational Sciences



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
Quantum Science
and Technology

-- 33rd Chris Engelbrecht Summer School 2025 --



Theoretical Foundations of Quantum Science and Quantum Technologies

STIAS,
Stellenbosch, South Africa

7-14 April 2025

Exercises for lectures on

Open quantum systems

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Suppose $\mathcal{H}$ is a Hilbert space, $\dim \mathcal{H} < \infty$.

Show that if $A \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ (bounded operators on $\mathcal{H}$) is such that $\text{tr}(AX) = 0 \quad \forall X \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$, then $A = 0$.

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Suppose M is a subspace of a Hilbert space $\mathcal{H}$ with $\dim \mathcal{H} = N < \infty$, and that $U: M \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$ is a linear map s.t. $\langle Ux, Uy \rangle = \langle x, y \rangle \quad \forall x, y \in M$.

Show $\exists$ unitary $\bar{U}$ on $\mathcal{H}$ s.t. $\bar{U}|_M = U$.

Sol: Let $\{e_1, \dots, e_d, f_1, \dots, f_{N-d}\}$ be an ONB of $\mathcal{H}$ ($\{e_j\}_{j=1}^d$ ONB of M , $\{f_1, \dots, f_{N-d}\}$ ONB of $M^\perp$).

Then $\{Ue_j = \varepsilon_j\}_{j=1}^d$ are d orthonormal vectors in $\mathcal{H}$:

$$\langle \varepsilon_j, \varepsilon_k \rangle = \langle Ue_j, Ue_k \rangle = \langle e_j, e_k \rangle = \delta_{jk}.$$

Complete the set $\{\varepsilon_j\}_{j=1}^d$ to an ONB $\{\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_d, \eta_1, \dots, \eta_{N-d}\}$ of H .

Define $\bar{u}$ by

$$\bar{u} e_j = \varepsilon_j, \quad j=1, \dots, d$$

$$\bar{u} f_k = \eta_k \quad k=1, \dots, N-d$$

This $\bar{u}$ satisfies $\bar{u}|_M = u$ (as the action of $\bar{u}$ on the basis $\{e_j\}_{j=1}^d$ of M is the same as the action of u) and $\bar{u}$ is unitary: The columns $\{\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_d, \eta_1, \dots, \eta_{N-d}\}$ of $\bar{u}$ as a matrix are orthogonal.

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In the context of the quantum dynamical semigroups Φ_t , recall that the generator is given by

$$LX =$$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0_+} \left\{ \sum_{i,j=1}^{N^2-1} \frac{c_{ij}(t)}{t} F_i X F_j^* + \frac{1}{N} \frac{C_{N^2 N^2}(t) - 1}{t} X \right. \\ \left. + \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{i=1}^{N^2-1} \frac{c_{i N^2}(t)}{t} F_i X + \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{j=1}^{N^2-1} \frac{c_{N^2 j}(t)}{t} X F_j^* \right\}$$

For $i, j \in \{1, \dots, N\}$ define $\Gamma_{ij}(X) = F_i X F_j^*$.

(1) Show that the $\{\Gamma_{ij}\}_{i,j=1}^{N^2}$ are $N^2 \times N^2$ linearly independent elements of $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}))$.

Consequently, they are a basis of $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}))$.

Solution: Let U be the unitary that changes the ONB $\{F_\alpha\}_{\alpha=1}^{N^2}$ into the ONB $\{E_{ij}\}_{i,j=1}^{N^2}$, where E_{ij} is the matrix with

entries zero except one 1 in the (i,j) spot. Then

$$\sum_{\alpha, \beta} c_{\alpha\beta} F_{\alpha} X = 0 \Leftrightarrow \sum_{\alpha, \beta} c_{\alpha\beta} F_{\alpha} X F_{\beta}^* = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \sum_{\alpha, \beta} c_{\alpha\beta} (U F_{\alpha}) X (U F_{\beta})^* = 0$$

Now $U F_{\alpha} = \sum_{ij} u_{(ij), \alpha} E_{ij}$

$$(U F_{\beta})^* = \sum_{kl} \overline{u_{(kl), \beta}} (E_{kl})^* = \sum_{kl} \overline{u_{(kl), \beta}} E_{lk}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \sum_{ij} \sum_{kl} d_{(ij), (kl)} E_{ij} X E_{lk} = 0$$

where $d_{(ij), (kl)} = \sum_{\alpha, \beta} c_{\alpha\beta} u_{(ij), \alpha} \overline{u_{(kl), \beta}}$

Now $(u^*)_{\beta, (kl)} = \overline{(u)_{(kl), \beta}} = \overline{u_{(kl), \beta}}$, so

$$d_{(ij), (kl)} = (U C U^*)_{(ij), (kl)}, \quad C = (c_{\alpha\beta}).$$

Next, $E_{ij} X E_{kl} = |e_i\rangle\langle e_k| X_{jl}$ (matrix element of X)

Choose $X = E_{rs}$, fixed r, s . Then

$$\sum_{\alpha, \beta} c_{\alpha\beta} \Gamma_{\alpha\beta} X = 0 \Leftrightarrow \sum_{i, k} d_{(ir), (ks)} |e_i\rangle\langle e_k| = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow d_{(ir), (ks)} = 0 \quad \forall i, k$$

We can choose r, s arbitrary. So

$$\sum_{\alpha, \beta} c_{\alpha\beta} \Gamma_{\alpha\beta} \Leftrightarrow d_{(ij), (kl)} = 0 \quad \forall i, j, k, l$$

$$\Leftrightarrow u C u^* = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow C = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow c_{\alpha\beta} = 0 \quad \forall \alpha, \beta.$$

This proves the $\Gamma_{\alpha\beta}$ are linearly independent.

In terms of the Γ_{ij} , we have (strong topology of $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}))$)

$$L = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0_+} \left\{ \sum_{i,j=1}^{N^2-1} \frac{c_{ij}(t)}{t} \Gamma_{ij} + \frac{1}{N} \frac{C_{N^2 N^2}(t) - 1}{t} \Gamma_{N^2 N^2} \right. \\ \left. + \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{i=1}^{N^2-1} \frac{c_{i N^2}(t)}{t} \Gamma_{i N^2} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{j=1}^{N^2-1} \frac{c_{N^2 j}(t)}{t} \Gamma_{N^2 j} \right\}.$$

For short, $L = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0_+} \sum_s \xi_s(t) \Gamma_s$ for some $\xi_s(t) \in \mathbb{C}$

and a basis $\{\Gamma_s\}$ of $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}))$. Then $L = \sum_s \lambda_s \Gamma_s$ for some (unique) $\{\lambda_s\} \subset \mathbb{C}$ and hence

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0_+} \sum_s (\xi_s(t) - \lambda_s) \Gamma_s = 0.$$

But as the Γ_s are linearly independent, $\exists c > 0$ s.t.

$$\left\| \sum_s (\xi_s(t) - \lambda_s) \Gamma_s \right\| \geq c \sum_s |\xi_s(t) - \lambda_s|$$

(basic linear algebra, see. e.g. [Kreyszig: Introductory Functional Analysis, Lemma 2.4-1])

Consequently, $\xi_s(t) \xrightarrow{t \rightarrow 0_+} \lambda_s \quad \forall s.$

6 show that the coefficient matrix $A = (a_{ij})_{i,j=1}^{N-1}$ is positive, $A \geq 0$.