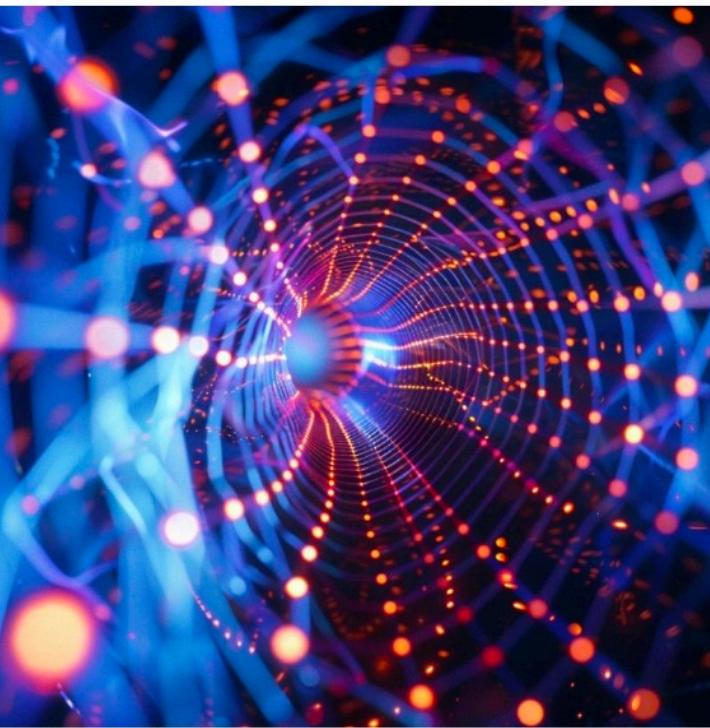




South African
Quantum
Technology
Initiative

-- 33rd Chris Engelbrecht Summer School 2025 --



Theoretical Foundations of Quantum Science and Quantum Technologies

STIAS,
Stellenbosch, South Africa

7-14 April 2025

Lectures on

Open quantum systems

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Part 2

CPTP maps

CPTP maps

(Completely positive trace preserving)

Physical motivation:

$\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{H}_R$: Hilbert spaces

$\Omega \in \mathcal{H}_R$: normalized vector (pure state)

U : unitary on $\mathcal{H} \otimes \mathcal{H}_R$ (quantum channel)

Define map Φ on bounded operators $X \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}_S)$:

$$\Phi(X) = \text{tr}_R \left[U \left(X \otimes |\Omega\rangle\langle\Omega| \right) U^* \right]$$

↑
partial trace

↑
think of U as $e^{i\theta H}$ (θ fixed)

Partial trace: $A = B \otimes C$ operator on $\mathcal{H} \otimes \mathcal{H}_R$

$$\rightarrow \text{tr}_R A = B \cdot \underbrace{\text{tr}_R C}_{\in \mathbb{C}}$$

Extend $\text{tr}_R : \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H} \otimes \mathcal{H}_R) \rightarrow \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ by linearity.

$$U = \sum_{ij} u_{ij} P_i \otimes Q_j \quad (u_{ij} \in \mathbb{C}, P_i, Q_j \text{ operators})$$

$$\rightarrow \Phi(X) = \text{tr}_R U (X \otimes |-\rangle\langle -|) U^*$$

$$= \sum_{ij} \sum_{ke} u_{ij} \bar{u}_{ke} \text{tr}_R (P_i \otimes Q_j) (X \otimes |\Omega\rangle\langle \Omega|) P_k^* \otimes Q_e^*$$

$$= \sum_{ijk\ell} u_{ij} \bar{u}_{ke} P_i X P_k^* \underbrace{\text{tr}(Q_j |\Omega\rangle\langle \Omega| Q_e^*)}_{\sum_\alpha \langle f_\alpha, Q_j |\Omega\rangle\langle \Omega| Q_e^* f_\alpha \rangle}$$

$$\sum_\alpha \langle f_\alpha, Q_j |\Omega\rangle\langle \Omega| Q_e^* f_\alpha \rangle$$

where $\{f_\alpha\}$ is any ONB of \mathcal{H}_R

$$= \sum_\alpha \left(\sum_{ij} u_{ij} \langle f_\alpha, Q_j | \Omega \rangle P_i \right) X \left(\sum_{ke} \bar{u}_{ke} \langle -\Omega, Q_e^* f_\alpha \rangle P_k^* \right)$$

Define Kraus operators $K_\alpha = \sum_{ij} u_{ij} \langle f_\alpha, Q_j | \Omega \rangle P_i$

$$\rightarrow \boxed{\Phi(X) = \sum_\alpha K_\alpha X K_\alpha^*}$$

What are the properties of K_α ?

$$(1) \quad \text{tr } \Phi(X) = \text{tr}_{\mathcal{H} \otimes \mathcal{H}_R} \cancel{\text{tr}} (X \otimes |s\rangle\langle s|) \cancel{u^*}$$
$$= \text{tr } X \quad \text{Φ is trace-preserving}$$

$$(2) \quad \text{tr } \Phi(X) = \text{tr} \left(\sum_{\alpha} K_{\alpha} X K_{\alpha}^* \right)$$
$$= \text{tr} \left(\sum_{\alpha} K_{\alpha}^* K_{\alpha} X \right)$$

$$(1) \& (2) \Rightarrow \text{tr} \left(\sum_{\alpha} K_{\alpha}^* K_{\alpha} - \mathbb{1} \right) X = 0, \quad \forall X \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}_S)$$

This implies (exercise)

$$\sum_{\alpha} K_{\alpha}^* K_{\alpha} = \mathbb{1}.$$

Consider $\Phi \otimes \mathbb{1}_n$ acting on $\mathcal{H}_S \otimes \mathbb{C}^n$, $n \geq 1$.

Then $\Phi \otimes \mathbb{1}_n = \sum_{\alpha} K_{\alpha} \otimes \mathbb{1}_n (\cdot) K_{\alpha}^* \otimes \mathbb{1}_n$

If $A \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}_S \otimes \mathbb{C}^n)$ is a positive operator, $A \geq 0$,

then

$$\Phi \otimes \mathbb{1}_n (A) = \sum_{\alpha} (K_{\alpha} \otimes \mathbb{1}_n) A (K_{\alpha}^* \otimes \mathbb{1}_n)$$

is also a positive operator on $\mathcal{H}_S \otimes \mathbb{C}^n$ (prove it!)

$\Rightarrow \Phi \otimes \mathbb{1}_n$ is positivity preserving $\forall n \geq 1$.

A map Φ s.t. $\Phi \otimes \mathbb{1}_n$ positivity preserving $\forall n \geq 1$ is called completely positive (CP).

All in all, Φ is completely positive and trace preserving
" Φ is CPTP".

Amazing fact: Every CPTP map is of Kraus form!

We now show the amazing fact!

Let Φ be CPTP on $B(\mathcal{H})$.

We take $\psi \in \mathcal{H}$ and investigate $\Phi(|\psi\rangle\langle\psi|)$.

Let $\{e_i\}$ an ONB of \mathcal{H} and let \mathcal{C} be the anti-linear map taking complex conjugations of components in the basis $\{e_i\}$.

Then $\langle \mathcal{C}\psi, \mathcal{C}\varphi \rangle = \langle \varphi, \psi \rangle$ $\forall \psi, \varphi \in \mathcal{H}$ and $\mathcal{C}e_i = e_{\bar{i}}$.

With $\psi = \sum_j \langle e_j, \psi \rangle e_j$:

$$\Phi(|\psi\rangle\langle\psi|) = \sum_{jk} \underbrace{\langle e_j, \psi \rangle}_{\langle \mathcal{C}\psi, e_j \rangle} \Phi(|e_j\rangle\langle e_k|) \underbrace{\overline{\langle e_k, \psi \rangle}}_{\langle e_k, \mathcal{C}\psi \rangle}$$

$$= \sum_{jk} \langle \mathcal{C}\psi, e_j \rangle \langle e_k, \mathcal{C}\psi \rangle \Phi(|e_j\rangle\langle e_k|)$$

$$= \sum_{jk} \text{Tr}_2 \left(\Phi \otimes |\mathcal{C}\psi\rangle\langle\mathcal{C}\psi| \right) \left(|e_j\rangle\langle e_k| \otimes |e_j\rangle\langle e_k| \right)$$

$$|e_j \otimes e_j\rangle \langle e_k \otimes e_k|$$

$$= \text{tr}_2 \left(\Phi \otimes |v\rangle\langle v| \right) (|v\rangle\langle v|)$$

where $v = \sum_j e_j \otimes e_j$. Then $\Phi \in CP$:

$$(\Phi \otimes I) (|v\rangle\langle v|) = \sum_{\alpha} |\zeta_{\alpha}\rangle\langle \zeta_{\alpha}|, \quad \text{some } \zeta_{\alpha} \in \mathcal{H} \otimes \mathcal{H}$$

$$\rightarrow \Phi (|v\rangle\langle v|) = \sum_{\alpha} \text{tr}_2 \left(I \otimes |v\rangle\langle v| \right) |\zeta_{\alpha}\rangle\langle \zeta_{\alpha}|$$

Fix an α and write $|s\rangle$ for $|\zeta_{\alpha}\rangle$: $s = \sum_{m,n} z_{mn} e_m \otimes e_n$

$$\text{tr}_2 \left(I \otimes |v\rangle\langle v| \right) |s\rangle\langle s|$$

$$= \sum_{mn} \sum_{pq} z_{mn} z_{pq} \text{tr}_2 \left(I \otimes |v\rangle\langle v| \right) |e_m \otimes e_n\rangle\langle e_p \otimes e_q|$$

$|e_m\rangle\langle e_p| \otimes |e_n\rangle\langle e_q|$

$\langle e_p, e_n \rangle \otimes \langle e_q, e_n \rangle$

$$= \left(\sum_{mn} z_{mn} |e_m\rangle\langle e_n| \psi \right) \left(\langle \psi | \sum_{pq} \bar{z}_{pq} |e_p\rangle\langle e_q| \right)$$

$$= |K\psi\rangle\langle K\psi| \quad \text{with} \quad K = \sum_{mn} z_{mn} |e_m\rangle\langle e_n|$$

We have shown that

$$\Phi(|\psi\rangle\langle\psi|) = \sum_{\alpha} K_{\alpha} |\psi\rangle\langle\psi| K_{\alpha}^*$$

Now extend to all operators X on $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ by linearity:

$$X = \operatorname{Re} X + i \operatorname{Im} X$$

$$\begin{cases} \operatorname{Re} X = \frac{X + X^*}{2} \\ \operatorname{Im} X = \frac{X - X^*}{2i} \end{cases}$$

Both $\operatorname{Re} X$ & $\operatorname{Im} X$ are hermitian, so diagonalizable.

E.g. $\operatorname{Re} X = \sum_j \lambda_j |\psi_j\rangle\langle\psi_j|$. As Φ is linear we

have $\Phi(X) = \sum_{\alpha} K_{\alpha} X K_{\alpha}^* \quad \forall X \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$.

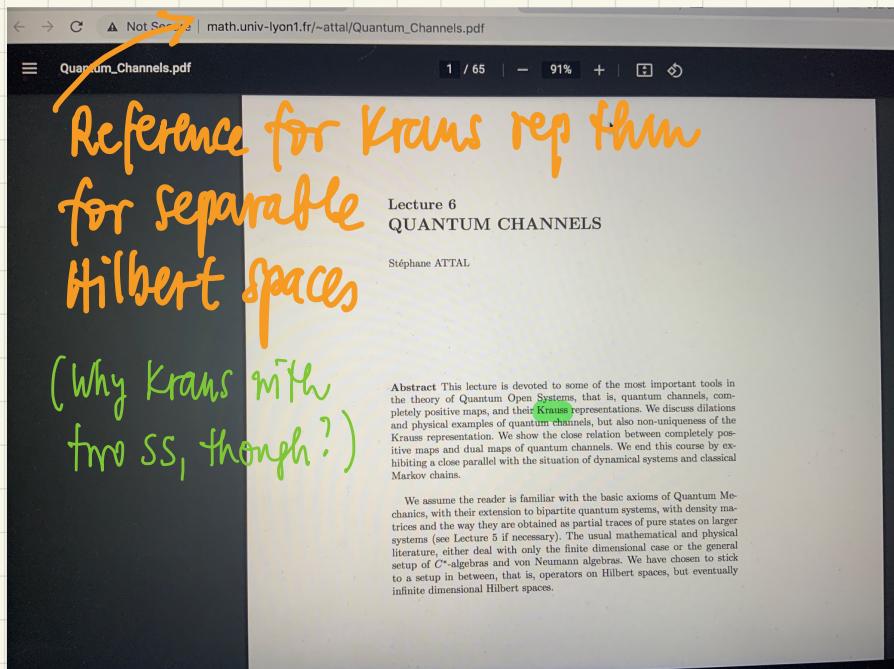
We have shown:

Theorem (Kraus representation theorem)

Suppose Φ is CPTP on $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$, $\dim \mathcal{H} = d < \infty$. Then there are operators $K_\alpha \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$, $\alpha = 1, \dots, d^2$ s.t. $\forall X \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$:

$$\tilde{\Phi}(X) = \sum_{\alpha} K_{\alpha} X K_{\alpha}^* \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{\alpha} K_{\alpha}^* K_{\alpha} = \mathbb{1}$$

Conversely, if Φ is of this form for some operators K_α , then Φ is CPTP.



Recall : We defined map $\tilde{\Phi}$ on $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$,

$$\tilde{\Phi}(X) = \text{tr}_R \left[U X \otimes |_{\mathcal{H}} \times \mathcal{H}| U^* \right]$$

This has a physical meaning. ('Physical rep.')

Then we saw : $\tilde{\Phi}$ is CPTP and has a Kraus rep.

$$\tilde{\Phi}(\cdot) = \sum_{\alpha} K_{\alpha}(\cdot) K_{\alpha}^* \quad \text{'Kraus form'}$$

Then we showed that any CPTP map on $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ is of the Kraus form.

But does any CPTP map $\tilde{\Phi}$ have the 'physical' interpretation coming from the reduction of an extended complex (reservoir added) ?

The answer is: YES!!

Theorem. Let Φ be a linear map on a Hilbert space \mathcal{H} ,

$\dim \mathcal{H} = d < \infty$. The following are equivalent:

(1) Φ is CPTP

(2) There exists a Hilbert space \mathcal{H}_R , $\dim \mathcal{H}_R \leq d^2$, there exists a unit vector $\Omega \in \mathcal{H}_R$, there exists a unitary U on $\mathcal{H} \otimes \mathcal{H}_R$, s.t.

$$\Phi(X) = \text{tr}_R U (X \otimes |\Omega\rangle\langle\Omega|) U^* \quad \forall X \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$$

There is an
infinite-dimensional / C^* algebraic
version :



Stinespring dilation theorem

Proc. Amer. Math. Soc. 6 (1955) 211-216

POSITIVE FUNCTIONS ON C^* -ALGEBRAS

W. FORREST STINESPRING

1. Introduction. Let X be any set, let \mathcal{S} be a Boolean σ -algebra of subsets of X , and let F be a function from \mathcal{S} to non-negative operators on a Hilbert space \mathcal{K} such that $F(\emptyset) = 1$ and F is countably-additive in the weak operator topology. Neumark [2] has shown that there exists a Hilbert space K of which \mathcal{K} is a subspace and a spectral measure E defined on \mathcal{S} such that $F(S)P = PE(S)P$ for all S in \mathcal{S} , where P is projection of K on \mathcal{K} . Let us rephrase this situation so that we speak of algebras rather than Boolean algebras and linear functions rather than measures. Thus, we consider, instead of the Boolean σ -algebra \mathcal{S} , the C^* -algebra \mathcal{A} of all bounded functions on X which are measurable with respect to \mathcal{S} . A C^* -algebra is defined as a complex Banach algebra with an involution $x \mapsto x^*$ such that $\|xx^*\| = \|x\|^2$ for all x in the algebra. The measure F is supplanted by the linear function μ on \mathcal{A}

$$\mu(f) = \int f(\gamma) dF(\gamma), \quad f \in \mathcal{A},$$

where the integral is to be taken in the weak sense. The theorem now asserts that $\mu(f)P = P\mu(f)P$, where

$$\mu(f) = \int f(\gamma) dE(\gamma), \quad f \in \mathcal{A}.$$

In the original formulation, E was an improvement over F because E was a spectral measure; in the reformulation, ρ is an improvement over μ since ρ is a *-homomorphism. When the situation is phrased in this manner, the question naturally occurs: "Is it essential that the algebra \mathcal{A} be commutative?" The present paper is devoted to a discussion of this point.

2. The main theorem. If \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} are C^* -algebras and μ is a linear function from \mathcal{A} to \mathcal{B} , we shall say that μ is positive if $\mu(A) \geq 0$ whenever $A \in \mathcal{A}$ and $A \geq 0$. The algebra of $n \times n$ matrices with entries in \mathcal{A} is also a C^* -algebra, which we shall denote by $\mathcal{A}^{(n)}$. By applying μ to each entry of an element of $\mathcal{A}^{(n)}$, we obtain an element of $\mathcal{B}^{(n)}$; this linear function from $\mathcal{A}^{(n)}$ to $\mathcal{B}^{(n)}$ will be denoted by $\mu^{(n)}$. We shall say that μ is completely positive if $\mu^{(n)}$ is positive for each positive integer n .

Received by the editors March 29, 1954.

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We have already seen that if $\Phi(X) = \text{tr}_R U (X \otimes |-\Omega\rangle\langle \Omega|) U^*$
then Φ is CPTP. So (2) \Rightarrow (1) is proven.

Now we show that (1) \Rightarrow (2).

Task: given a CPTP map Φ on $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ construct a Hilbert space \mathcal{H}_R , a unit vector $\Omega \in \mathcal{H}_R$ and a unitary U on $\mathcal{H} \otimes \mathcal{H}_R$ such that $\Phi(X) = \text{tr}_R U (X \otimes |-\Omega\rangle\langle \Omega|) U^*$.

Let Φ be given, CPTP on $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$, $\dim \mathcal{H} = d < \infty$. Then Φ has a Kraus rep., $\Phi(X) = \sum_{\alpha=1}^N K_\alpha X K_\alpha^*$, $N \leq d^2$.

Set $\mathcal{H}_R = \mathbb{C}^N$ and let $\{e_\alpha\}_{\alpha=1}^N$ be an ONB of \mathcal{H}_R .

$\forall \psi, x \in \mathcal{H}$:

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{\Phi}(|\psi\rangle\langle x|) &= \sum_{\alpha} K_\alpha |\psi\rangle\langle x| K_\alpha^* \\ &= \sum_{\alpha} \text{tr}_R K_\alpha |\psi\rangle\langle x| K_\alpha^* \otimes |e_\alpha\rangle\langle e_\alpha| \\ &= \sum_{\alpha} \text{tr}_R |K_\alpha \psi \otimes e_\alpha\rangle\langle K_\alpha x \otimes e_\alpha|\end{aligned}$$

We would like this to be of the form

$$\text{tr}_R \ u \ |\psi \otimes \omega\rangle \langle \chi \otimes \omega| u^*.$$

Pick any $\omega \in \mathcal{H}_R$, $\|\omega\|=1$ and define linear map

$$\bar{u}: \mathcal{H} \otimes \mathbb{C}\omega \rightarrow \mathcal{H} \otimes \mathcal{H}_R \quad \text{by}$$

$$\bar{u} \ \psi \otimes \omega = \sum_{\alpha} K_{\alpha} \psi \otimes e_{\alpha}.$$

$$\begin{aligned} \textcircled{1} \quad & \text{tr}_R \ \bar{u} \left(|\psi\rangle \langle x| \otimes |\omega\rangle \langle \omega| \right) \bar{u}^* \\ &= \text{tr}_R \ |\bar{u} \ \psi \otimes \omega\rangle \langle \bar{u} \ \chi \otimes \omega| \\ &= \sum_{\alpha, \beta} \text{tr}_R \ |K_{\alpha} \psi \otimes e_{\alpha}\rangle \langle K_{\beta} \chi \otimes e_{\beta}| \\ &= \sum_{\alpha, \beta} |K_{\alpha} \psi\rangle \langle K_{\beta} \chi| \ \text{tr}_R |e_{\alpha}\rangle \langle e_{\beta}| \\ &= \sum_{\alpha} K_{\alpha} |\psi \chi|^* K_{\alpha}^* \\ &= \Phi(|\psi\rangle \langle \chi|). \end{aligned}$$

linearity

$$\Rightarrow \text{tr}_R \bar{u} (x \otimes |\omega\rangle \langle \omega|) \bar{u}^* = \Phi(x), \quad \forall x \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}).$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 ② \quad \langle \bar{u} \psi_{\Omega}, \bar{u} \chi_{\Omega} \rangle &= \sum_{\alpha \beta} \langle K_{\alpha} \psi_{\Omega} e_{\alpha}, K_{\beta} \chi_{\Omega} e_{\beta} \rangle \\
 &= \sum_{\alpha} \langle \psi, K_{\alpha}^* K_{\alpha} \chi \rangle \\
 &= \langle \psi, \chi \rangle \\
 &= \langle \psi_{\Omega}, \chi_{\Omega} \rangle.
 \end{aligned}$$

So $\bar{u}: \mathcal{H} \otimes \mathbb{C}\Omega \rightarrow \mathcal{H} \otimes \mathcal{H}_R$ preserves inner products.

Exercise \bar{u} can be extended to a unitary u on \mathcal{H} .

This shows $(1) \Rightarrow (2)$ of the theorem. ■

Part 3

Quantum dynamical semi-groups

Let $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_S \otimes \mathcal{H}_R$, $\dim \mathcal{H}_S = N < \infty$.

Let $H = H^* \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ and let ρ_R be a density matrix on \mathcal{H}_R .

Given any $t \in \mathbb{R}$, the map Φ_t defined by

$$X \mapsto \Phi_t(X) = \text{tr}_R \left(e^{-itH} (X \otimes \rho_R) e^{itH} \right)$$

is a CPTP on $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}_S)$. Moreover,

$$\Phi_{t=0} = \mathbb{1} = \text{id}.$$

Def. A family $\{\Phi_t\}_{t \geq 0}$ of CPTP maps satisfying $\Phi_0 = \text{id}$ is called a CPTP dynamical map.

S and R interact (via H) so generally $\Phi_{t+s} \neq \Phi_t \circ \Phi_s$.

Def. A CPTP family $\{\Phi_t\}_{t \geq 0}$ satisfying the group property $\Phi_{t+s} = \Phi_t \circ \Phi_s$, $s, t \geq 0$, and such that $t \mapsto \Phi_t$ is continuous, is called a quantum dynamical semigroup or, a Markovian semigroup.

Any (semi-) group has a generator. So

$$\Phi_t = e^{tL}, \quad L = \frac{d}{dt} \Big|_{t=0} e^{tL}$$

where the generator L is an operator acting on $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}_S)$.

Q: What is the general form of an L that generates
a markovian semigroup?

As we show now, such L have a specific structure.

If fixed, Φ_t has a Kraus rep.

$$\Phi_t(X) = \sum_{\alpha} K_{\alpha}(t) X K_{\alpha}(t)^*$$

Let $\{F_j\}_{j=1}^{N^2}$ be an ONB of $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}_S)$,

$$\langle F_i, F_j \rangle \equiv \text{tr } F_i^* F_j = \delta_{ij}$$

inner product of $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}_S)$

Choose $F_{N^2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \mathbf{1}$. Then all F_j for $j < N^2$

are traceless. We expand,

$$k_\alpha(t) = \sum_j \langle F_j, k_\alpha(t) \rangle F_j.$$

$$\Rightarrow \Phi_t(X) = \sum_{i,j=1}^{N^2} c_{ij}(t) F_i X F_j^*$$



$$c_{ij}(t) = \frac{\sum_\alpha \langle F_i, k_\alpha(t) \rangle \langle F_j, k_\alpha(t) \rangle}{\sum_\alpha}$$

$\forall X$:

$$LX = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0_+} \frac{1}{t} (\Phi_t(X) - X)$$

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

$$\left. + \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{j=1}^{N^2-1} \frac{c_{jN^2}(t)}{t} F_i X + \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{j=1}^{N^2-1} \frac{c_{N^2j}(t)}{t} X F_j^* \right\}$$

Exercise: Show that each term in the sum converges individually as $t \rightarrow 0_+$.

So we define

$$q_{N^2 N^2} = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{c_{N^2 N^2}(t) - N}{t}$$

$$q_{i N^2} = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{c_{i N^2}(t)}{t}$$

$$i, j = 1, \dots, N^2 - 1.$$

$$q_{N^2 j} = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{c_{N^2 j}(t)}{t}$$

$$q_{ij} = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{c_{ij}(t)}{t}$$

and also

$$F = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{i=1}^{N^2-1} q_{i N^2} F_i.$$

Then

$$LX = \sum_{i,j=1}^{N^2-1} q_{ij} F_i X F_j^* + \frac{1}{N} q_{N^2 N^2} X + FX + XF^*.$$

With $\operatorname{Re} F = \frac{F + F^*}{2}$, $\operatorname{Im} F = \frac{F - iF^*}{2i}$ we get

$$LX = \sum_{i,j=1}^{N^2-1} q_{ij} F_i X F_j^* + \frac{1}{N} q_{N^2 N^2} X + \{ \operatorname{Re} F, X \} + i [\operatorname{Im} F, X]$$

where $\{A, B\} = AB + BA$, $[A, B] = AB - BA$.

Φ_t is trace measureing $\Rightarrow \operatorname{tr} LX = 0$

$$0 = \operatorname{tr} \left(\sum_{i,j=1}^{N^2-1} q_{ij} F_j^* F_i + \frac{1}{N} q_{N^2 N^2} \mathbb{1} + 2 \operatorname{Re} F \right) X = 0, \forall X.$$

$$\Rightarrow \operatorname{Re} F = -\frac{1}{2N} q_{N^2 N^2} \mathbb{1} - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j=1}^{N^2-1} q_{ij} F_j^* F_i.$$

Set $H = -\operatorname{Im} F = H^*$

$$\Rightarrow LX = -i[H, X] + \sum_{i,j=1}^{N^2-1} q_{ij} \left(F_i X F_j^* - \frac{1}{2} \{ F_j^* F_i, X \} \right).$$

Exercise: Show that the coefficient matrix $A = (q_{ij})_{i,j=1}^{N^2-1}$
is positive.

We diagonalize A : \exists unitary U and eigenvalues $\gamma_j \geq 0$,

$$A = U D U^*, \quad D = \text{diag}(\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_{N^2-1}).$$

Set $V_\ell = \sum_{j=1}^{N^2-1} \gamma_j e F_j$. Then the above formula for L gives the following result:

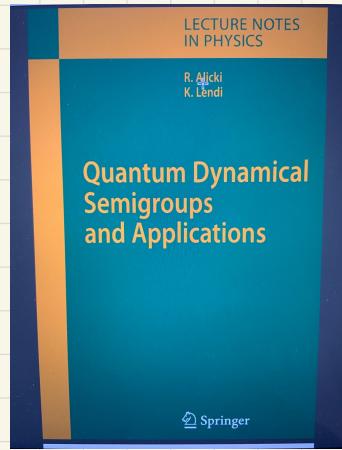
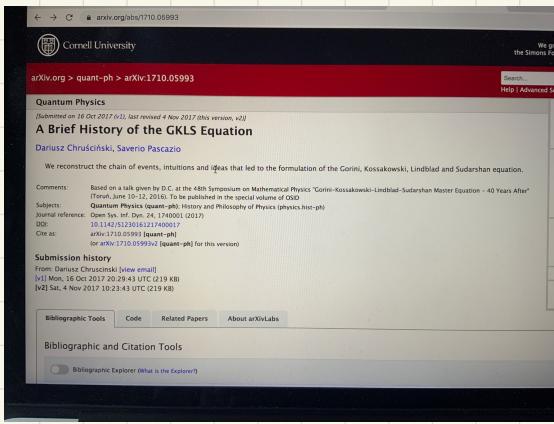
Theorem. If a linear operator L on $B(B(C^N))$ is the generator of a CPTP semigroup, then there are operators $H = H^*$, $V_\ell \in B(C^N)$, $\ell = 1, \dots, N^2-1$ and $\gamma_\ell \geq 0$ s.t.

$$[X] = -i[H, X] + \sum_{\ell=1}^{N^2-1} \gamma_\ell \left(V_\ell X V_\ell^* - \frac{1}{2} \{ V_\ell^* V_\ell, X \} \right).$$

The converse result holds as well. The theorem (and its converse) is called the Gorini-Kossakowski-Sudarshan-Lindblad (GKSL) theorem.

Gorini-Kossakowski-Lindblad-Sudarshan: JMP 17, 821 (1976) ($\dim \mathcal{H}_f < \infty$)

Lindblad: CMP 48, 119 (1976) (L bounded & $\dim \mathcal{H}_f \leq \infty$)



Open System & Information Dynamics
24, No 3, 1740001 (2017)