Physical transformations between quantum states
Zejun Huang, Chi-Kwong Li, Edward Poon, and Nung-Sing Sze

Citation: J. Math. Phys. 53, 102209 (2012); doi: 10.1063/1.4755846
View online: http://dx.doi.org/10.1063/1.4755846
View Table of Contents: http://jmp.aip.org/resource/1/JMAPAQ/v53/i10
Published by the American Institute of Physics.

Related Articles
Weak commutation relations of unbounded operators: Nonlinear extensions
Discrete-time quantum walks: Continuous limit and symmetries
Full counting statistics in the resonant-level model
Partial order and a T0-topology in a set of finite quantum systems
Quantum degenerate systems

Additional information on J. Math. Phys.
Journal Homepage: http://jmp.aip.org/
Journal Information: http://jmp.aip.org/about/about_the_journal
Top downloads: http://jmp.aip.org/features/most_downloaded
Information for Authors: http://jmp.aip.org/authors
Physical transformations between quantum states

Zejun Huang, a) Chi-Kwong Li, b) Edward Poon, c) and Nung-Sing Sze d)

1 Department of Applied Mathematics, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hung Hom, Hong Kong
2 Department of Mathematics, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia 23187, USA
3 Department of Mathematics, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Prescott, Arizona 86301, USA

(Received 8 April 2012; accepted 12 September 2012; published online 19 October 2012)

Given two sets of quantum states \(\{A_1, \ldots, A_k\}\) and \(\{B_1, \ldots, B_k\}\), represented as sets as density matrices, necessary and sufficient conditions are obtained for the existence of a physical transformation \(T\), represented as a trace-preserving completely positive map, such that \(T(A_i) = B_i\) for \(i = 1, \ldots, k\). General completely positive maps without the trace-preserving requirement, and unital completely positive maps transforming the states are also considered. © 2012 American Institute of Physics [http://dx.doi.org/10.1063/1.4755846]

I. INTRODUCTION AND NOTATION

A. Introduction

In quantum information science, quantum states with \(n\) physically measurable states are represented by \(n \times n\) density matrices, i.e., positive semidefinite matrices with trace one. In particular, pure states are rank one density matrices, while mixed states have rank greater than one. We are interested in studying the conditions on two sets of quantum states \(\{A_1, \ldots, A_k\}\) and \(\{B_1, \ldots, B_k\}\) so that there is a physical transformation (a.k.a. quantum operation or quantum channel) \(T\) such that \(T(A_i) = B_i\) for \(i = 1, \ldots, k\).

To set up the mathematical framework, let \(M_{m,n}\) be the set of \(m \times n\) complex matrices, and use the abbreviation \(M_n\) for \(M_{n,n}\). Denote by \(x^*\) and \(A^*\) the conjugate transpose of vectors \(x\) and matrices \(A\). Physical transformations sending quantum states (represented as density matrices) in \(M_n\) to quantum states in \(M_m\) are trace-preserving completely positive (TPCP) maps \(T: M_n \rightarrow M_m\) with an operator sum representation

\[
T(X) = \sum_{j=1}^{r} F_j X F_j^*,
\]

where \(F_1, \ldots, F_r\) are \(m \times n\) matrices satisfying \(\sum_{j=1}^{r} F_j^* F_j = I_n\); see Refs. 3 and 5, and Sec. 8.2.3 of Ref. 7. So, we are interested in studying the conditions for the existence of a TPCP map \(T\) of the form (1) with \(\sum_{j=1}^{r} F_j^* F_j = I_n\) such that \(T(A_i) = B_i\) for \(i = 1, \ldots, k\).

We also consider more general types of physical transformations (completely positive (CP) linear maps) without the trace-preserving assumption, i.e., not requiring \(\sum_{j=1}^{r} F_j^* F_j = I_n\). Such operations are also considered in the study of quantum information science; see Sec. 8.2.4 of Ref. 7. Furthermore, in Sec. IV we consider unital completely positive maps which are of interest in the theory of \(C^*\)-algebras. Such CP maps are dual to the trace-preserving ones and send the identity matrix to the identity matrix, i.e., they satisfy \(\sum_{j=1}^{r} F_j^* F_j = I_m\).

a) Electronic mail: huangzejun@yahoo.cn.
b) Electronic mail: ckli@math.wm.edu.
c) Electronic mail: poon3de@erau.edu.
d) Electronic mail: raymond.sze@polyu.edu.hk.
In Sec. II, we study physical transformations on qubit states, i.e., quantum states on $M_2$. Section III concerns physical transformations sending general states to general states, and Sec. IV concerns more general transformations acting on pure states.

B. Notation

We conclude this section by defining additional notation and recalling some terminology that will be used later. Given a matrix $M$ (which we may alternatively denote as $(M_{ij})$, to focus on its entries), we write $M^\intercal$ for the transpose of $M$, and $\tilde{M}$ for the matrix whose $(i,j)$-entry is the complex conjugate of $M_{ij}$. The Hadamard product (or Schur product) of two $m \times n$ matrices $A$ and $B$ is the $m \times n$ matrix $A \circ B$ whose $(i,j)$-entry is given by $A_{ij}B_{ij}$. (So, the $\circ$ symbol denotes entry-wise multiplication.) A correlation matrix is a positive semidefinite matrix with all diagonal entries equal to 1.

Suppose a matrix $A$ has the spectral decomposition $A = \sum_{k=1}^{m} \lambda_k v_k v_k^\intercal$ for some orthonormal eigenvectors $v_k$. One possible purification for $A$ is the vector $\sqrt{\lambda_k} v_k \otimes v_k$; the most general form for purifications of $A$ are vectors of the form $\phi = \sum_{k=1}^{m} \sqrt{\lambda_k} v_k \otimes Wv_k \in \mathbb{C}^m \otimes \mathbb{C}^r$, where $W$ is a partial isometry from $\mathbb{C}^m$ to $\mathbb{C}^r$. Note that, for any purification $\phi$ of $A$, the partial trace of $\phi\phi^\intercal$ over the second system is precisely $A$, and one can actually take a more abstract point of view and define purifications to be those vectors possessing this property. (Recall that the partial trace of $B \otimes C \in M_m \otimes M_r$ over the second system is just $\text{tr}(B C)$, and one extends linearly to define the partial trace on all of $M_m \otimes M_r$.)

II. QUBIT STATES

In this section we focus solely on qubit states ($2 \times 2$ density matrices). Recall that the trace norm $\| \cdot \|_1$ of a matrix $X$ is the sum of its singular values. The following interesting result was proved in Ref. 1; see also Ref. 2.

**Theorem 2.1.** Let $A_1, A_2, B_1, B_2 \in M_2$ be density matrices. There is a TPCP map sending $A_i$ to $B_i$ for $i = 1, 2$ if and only if $\|A_1 - iA_2\|_1 \geq \|B_1 - iB_2\|_1$ for all $t \geq 0$.

The proof in Ref. 1 is quite long. In the following we give a short proof of the result, and give another condition that is much easier to check (condition (c) in Theorem 2.2) by making the following reduction: if rank $A_1 = 2$, then we can find $c > 0$ so that $\tilde{A}_1 = A_1 - cA_2$ is a positive semidefinite matrix of rank one. Then we simply replace $A_1, B_1$ by $\tilde{A}_1, \tilde{B}_1 = B_1 - iB_2$, since a TPCP map sending $A_1$ to $B_1$ exists if and only if there is a TPCP map sending $\tilde{A}_1$ to $\tilde{B}_1$ and $A_2$ to $B_2$. We may then repeat the process by considering $\tilde{A}_2 = A_2 - \tilde{c}\tilde{A}_1$.

So, by taking linear combinations of $A_1, A_2$ (and the corresponding combinations of $B_1, B_2$), we may assume that $A_1 = x_1 x_1^\intercal$ and $A_2 = x_2 x_2^\intercal$. We have the following.

**Theorem 2.2.** Let $A_1 = x_1 x_1^\intercal$, $A_2 = x_2 x_2^\intercal$, $B_1, B_2 \in M_2$ be density matrices. The following conditions are equivalent.

(a) There is a TPCP map sending $A_i$ to $B_i$ for $i = 1, 2$.

(b) $\sqrt{(1 + t)^2 - 4t|\langle x_1^\intercal x_2 \rangle|^2} = \|A_1 - iA_2\|_1 \geq \|B_1 - iB_2\|_1$ for all $t \geq 0$.

(c) $|\langle x_1^\intercal x_2 \rangle| \leq \|\sqrt{A_1}\sqrt{A_2}\|_1 \leq \|\sqrt{B_1}\sqrt{B_2}\|_1$.

Note that condition (c) is of independent interest, for it relates the fidelity between the initial states with the fidelity $\|\sqrt{A_1}\sqrt{B_1}\|_1$ between the final states $B_1, B_2$, and can be generalized to give a necessary (but not sufficient) condition for the existence of a TPCP map sending $k$ initial states to $k$ final states (see Eq. (6) later, also Ref. 2).

**Proof.** Note that for $X \in M_2$, $\|X\|_1^2 = \text{tr}(XX^\intercal) + 2|\text{det}(X)|$. One can readily verify the first equality in (b) and the first equality in (c).
(a) ⇒ (b). Suppose $T$ is TPCP. If $A = A_+ - A_-$ where $A_+$ and $A_-$ are positive semidefinite, then
\[ \|T(A)\|_1 \leq \|T(A_+)\|_1 + \|T(A_-)\|_1 = \text{tr} \, T(A_+) + \text{tr} \, T(A_-) = \text{tr} \, A_+ + \text{tr} \, A_- = \|A\|_1. \]

Thus $\|B_1 - tB_2\|_1 = \|T(A_1 - tA_2)\|_1 \leq \|A_1 - tA_2\|_1$ for all $t \geq 0$.

(b) ⇒ (c). Suppose one of the matrices $B_1$ and $B_2$ has rank 1. Without loss of generality, we may assume that $B_2 = y_2^* y_2^t$. By condition (b), for $t > y_2^* B_1 y_2$, we have
\[ (1 + t)^2 - 4t|x^*_1 x_2|^2 \geq \|B_1 - t y_2^* y_2^t\|_1^2 = \text{tr} \, ((B_1 - t y_2^* y_2^t)^2) + 2|\text{det}(B_1 - t y_2^* y_2^t)| = t^2 + 2t - 4t(y_2^* B_1 y_2) + \gamma \]
for a constant $\gamma \in \mathbb{R}$. Thus, $|x^*_1 x_2|^2 \leq y_2^* B_1 y_2 = \|\sqrt{B_1} \sqrt{B_2}\|^2$.

Suppose both $B_1$ and $B_2$ are invertible. Choose $t$ so that $\text{det}(B_1) = \text{det}(t B_2)$. Applying a suitable unitary similarity transform, we may assume that $B_1 - tB_2$ is in diagonal form so that
\[ B_1 = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 & c \\ \bar{c} & 1 - b_1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad B_2 = \begin{bmatrix} b_2 & c/t \\ \bar{c}/t & 1 - b_2 \end{bmatrix}. \]

Then
\[ \text{det}(B_1 + t B_2) - |\text{det}(B_1 - t B_2)| = \{ (b_1 + t b_2)(1 + t - b_1 - t b_2) - 4|c|^2 \} - (b_1 - t b_2)(b_1 - t b_2) - (1 - t)) \]
\[ = 2(b_1 - b_1) - |c|^2 + t^2(b_2(1 - b_2) - |c|^2/t^2)) \]
\[ = 2(\text{det}(B_1) + \text{det}(t B_2)) \]
\[ = 4\text{det}(\sqrt{B_1} \sqrt{t B_2}) \quad \text{because} \ t \ \text{satisfies} \ \text{det}(B_1) = \text{det}(t B_2) \]
\[ = 4t \text{det}(\sqrt{B_1} \sqrt{B_2}). \]

Hence,
\[ \text{det}(B_1 + t B_2) - |\text{det}(B_1 - t B_2)| = 4t \text{det}(\sqrt{B_1} \sqrt{B_2}). \quad (2) \]

By condition (b), we have
\[ (1 + t)^2 - 4t|x^*_1 x_2|^2 \]
\[ \geq \text{tr} \, ((B_1 - t B_2)^2) + 2|\text{det}(B_1 - t B_2)| \]
\[ = \text{tr} \, ((B_1 + t B_2)^2) - 2 \text{tr} \, (B_1 B_2 + B_2 B_1) \]
\[ + 2 \text{det}(B_1 + t B_2) - 2 \text{det}(B_1 - t B_2) + 2|\text{det}(B_1 - t B_2)| \]
\[ = (\text{tr} \, (B_1 + t B_2)^2) - 4t \text{tr} \, (B_1 B_2) - 2 \text{det}(B_1 + t B_2) + 2|\text{det}(B_1 - t B_2)| \]
\[ = (1 + t)^2 - 4t \left[ \text{tr} \, (B_1 B_2) + 2 \text{det}(\sqrt{B_1} \sqrt{B_2}) \right] \quad \text{by (2)} \]
\[ = (1 + t)^2 - 4t \|\sqrt{B_1} \sqrt{B_2}\|^2. \]

Thus, $\|\sqrt{B_1} \sqrt{B_2}\|^1 \geq |x^*_1 x_2|$, and condition (c) holds.

(c) ⇒ (a). Note that $\|X\|_1 = \max\{|\text{tr} \, X W| : W \text{ is unitary}\}$, so there exists a unitary $V \in M_2$ such that $|\text{tr} \, \sqrt{B_1} \sqrt{B_2} V| \geq |y^*_1 x_2|$. If we write $\sqrt{B_1} = [y_1 | y_2]$ and $\sqrt{B_2} V = [z_1 | z_2]$, and set $y = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{C}^4$ and $z = \begin{bmatrix} z_1 \\ z_2 \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{C}^4$, then this inequality implies that $|y^* z| \geq |x^*_1 x_2|$. Set $\delta = 1$ if $y^* z = 0$; otherwise let $\delta = (x^*_1 x_2)/(y^* z)$. Then the $8 \times 2$ matrices
\[ X = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad Y = \begin{bmatrix} y \\ \sqrt{1 - |beta|^2} z \end{bmatrix} \]
satisfy $X^*X = Y^*Y$ (note that $y_1 y_1^* + y_2 y_2^* = B_1$ and $z_1 z_1^* + z_2 z_2^* = B_2$, so taking the trace of these
equations shows that $y$ and $z$ are unit vectors), so there exists a unitary $U$ such that $UX = Y$. Regard
the first two rows of $U^*$ as $[F_1^* F_2^* F_3^* F_4^*]$. Then the map
$$X \mapsto F_1 X F_1^* + \cdots + F_4 X F_4^*$$
is the desired TPCP map.

Remark. Consider the problem of the existence of a TPCP map $T$ such that $T(A_i) = B_i$ for $i = 1, \ldots, k$, for given density matrices $A_1, \ldots, A_k, B_1, \ldots, B_k \in M_2$. Evidently, we can focus on the case when
\{ $A_1, \ldots, A_k$ \} is a linearly independent set. If $k = 1$, then the map defined by $T(X) = (\text{tr} X)B_1$
is a TPCP map satisfying the desired condition. Theorems 2.1 and 2.2 provide conditions for the
existence of the desired TPCP map when $k = 2$. If $k = 4$, then \{ $A_1, \ldots, A_4$ \} is a basis for $M_2$. There
is a unique linear map $T$ satisfying $T(A_i) = B_i$ for $i = 1, \ldots, 4$. It is then easy to determine whether
$T$ is TPCP by considering its action on the standard basis \{ $E_{11}, E_{12}, E_{21}, E_{22}$ \} for $M_2$. One simply
checks whether $\text{tr} (T(E_{11})) = \text{tr} T(E_{22}) = 1$, $\text{tr} (T(E_{12})) = \text{tr} T(E_{21}) = 0$, and whether the Choi matrix
$$
\begin{bmatrix}
T(E_{11}) & T(E_{12}) \\
T(E_{21}) & T(E_{22})
\end{bmatrix}
$$
is positive semidefinite; see Ref. 3. The remaining case is when $k = 3$. Again, we can replace
$A_1, A_2, A_3$ by suitable linear combinations (and apply the same linear combinations to $B_1, B_2, B_3$
accordingly) and assume that $A_i = x_i x_i^*$ for $i = 1, 2, 3$. We have the following result.

**Theorem 2.3.** Suppose $A_i = x_i x_i^*, B_i \in M_2$ are density matrices for $i = 1, 2, 3$ such that $A_1,$
$A_2, A_3$ are linearly independent. Let $x_3 = \alpha_1 e^{it_1} x_1 + \alpha_2 e^{it_2} x_2$ with $\alpha_1, \alpha_2 > 0$,
$t_1, t_2 \in [0, 2\pi)$, and
$$
\tilde{B}_3 = \frac{1}{2\alpha_1 \alpha_2} (B_3 - \alpha_1^2 B_1 - \alpha_2^2 B_2).
$$
Then there is a TPCP map sending $x_i, x_i^*$ to $B_i$ for $i = 1, 2, 3$ if and only if there exists $C \in M_2$
such that
$$
\text{tr} (CC^*) = 1 + |\text{det}(C)|^2 \leq 2, \quad \text{tr} \sqrt{B_2 C \sqrt{B_1}} = e^{it_2 - t_1} x_1 x_2^*, \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{B}_3 = \text{Re} \sqrt{B_2 C \sqrt{B_1}}.
$$

**Proof.** First, consider the forward implication. Note that $T$ is a TPCP map sending $x_i, x_i^*$ to $B_i$
for $i = 1, 2$ if and only if $\|x_1 x_2\| \leq \|B_1\|$. If we write $T(X) = \sum_{j=1}^r F_j X F_j^*$ and $F_j x_i = y_{ij}$, note that
$Y_i = [y_{i1}, \ldots, y_{ir}]$ must equal $\sqrt{B_i} W_i^*$ for some isometry $W_i \in M_{rm}$. Writing $\text{Re} A = (A + A^*)/2,$
we have
$$
T(x_3 x_3^*) = \sum_{j=1}^r F_j x_3 x_3^* F_j^* = \sum_{j=1}^r (\alpha_1^2 y_{1j} y_{1j}^* + \alpha_2^2 y_{2j} y_{2j}^* + 2\text{Re} \alpha_1 \alpha_2 e^{it_1 - t_2} y_{2j} y_{1j}^*)
= \alpha_1^2 B_1 + \alpha_2^2 B_2 + 2\alpha_1 \alpha_2 \text{Re} e^{it_1 - t_2} y_2 y_1^*
= \alpha_1^2 B_1 + \alpha_2^2 B_2 + 2\alpha_1 \alpha_2 \text{Re} \sqrt{B_2 C \sqrt{B_1}},
$$
where $C$ is a contraction and $\text{tr} \sqrt{B_2 C \sqrt{B_1}} = e^{it_2 - t_1} x_1 x_2^*$. Note that $C$ is a contraction if and only if
the largest eigenvalue of $CC^*$ is bounded by 1, which is equivalent to the inequalities:
$$
\text{tr} (CC^*) \leq 1 + \text{det}(CC^*) = 1 + |\text{det}(C)|^2 \leq 2.
$$
Suppose the first inequality is a strict inequality. Consider the subspace
$$
S = \{ X \in M_2 : \text{Re} \sqrt{B_2 X \sqrt{B_1}} = 0, \text{tr} (\sqrt{B_2 X \sqrt{B_1}}) = 0 \} \subseteq M_2.
$$
Then we may replace $C$ by $C + X$ with $X \in S$ so that $\|C + X\| = 1$, and the new solution $C$
will satisfy the equality $\text{tr} (CC^*) = 1 + \text{det}(CC^*)$. 

\[ \text{Dec} \]
Conversely, suppose there exists \( C \) satisfying condition (3). Write \( \sqrt{B_1} = [y_{11} \ y_{12}], \sqrt{B_2}C = [y_{21} \ y_{22}], \) and \( \sqrt{B_2}(I - CC^*) = [y_{23} \ y_{24}] \). Then the inner product of the two unit vectors \( e^{i\theta_1}x_1 \) and \( e^{i\theta_2}x_2 \) equals that of the unit vectors
\[
\begin{bmatrix}
 y_{11} \\
y_{12} \\
 0 \ \\
 0
\end{bmatrix}
\quad \text{and} \quad
\begin{bmatrix}
 y_{21} \\
y_{22} \\
y_{23} \\
y_{24}
\end{bmatrix}.
\]
Thus, there is a unitary \( U \in M_8 \) such that
\[
U
\begin{bmatrix}
 e^{i\theta_1}x_1 \\
e^{i\theta_2}x_2 \\
 0 \\
 0
\end{bmatrix}
= 
\begin{bmatrix}
 y_{11} \\
y_{12} \\
y_{21} \\
y_{22}
\end{bmatrix}.
\]
Let the first two rows of \( U^* \) be \([F_1^* \ F_2^* \ F_3^* \ F_4^*]\). Then the map \( T(X) = \sum_{j=1}^4 F_jXF_j^* \) satisfies \( T(A_i) = B_i \) for \( i = 1, 2, 3. \) \( \Box \)

Note that condition (3) can be verified with standard software. In fact, if we treat \( C \) as an unknown matrix with 4 complex variables (that is, 8 real variables), then the last two equations translate to 5 independent real linear equations. By elementary linear algebra, the solution has the form \( C = C_0 + x_1C_1 + x_2C_2 + x_3C_3 \) for 4 complex matrices \( C_0, C_1, C_2, C_3 \) in \( M_2 \), and 3 real variables \( x_1, x_2, x_3 \). Then we can substitute this expression into the first equation to see whether the first nonlinear equation (of degree two) is solvable. In fact, we can formulate the first equation as an inequality: \( \operatorname{tr}(CC^*) \leq 1 + |\det(C)|^2 \leq 2 \). Then standard computer optimization packages can decide whether there exist real numbers \( x_1, x_2, x_3 \) satisfying the inequalities.

### III. GENERAL STATES TO GENERAL STATES

#### A. Moving beyond qubits

A natural question is whether or not Theorem 2.2 can be generalized to non-qubit states, i.e., states on \( M_4 \) where \( n > 2 \). The equivalence of (a) and (b) in Theorem 2.2 does not hold for density matrices with dimension greater than two (a counter-example may be found in Ref. 4). On the other hand, it is known (see, for example, Lemma 1 of Ref. 2) that the equivalence of (a) and (c) holds for density matrices of any dimension—provided the initial states \( A_1, A_2 \) are pure, i.e., have rank one. (See the example below.) This illustrates two points. First, results for states of arbitrary dimension appear to be more readily attainable when the inputs are restricted to be pure. Second, this shows why the situation is easier for qubit states: for qubits, one can always perform the reduction described before Theorem 2.2 to reduce to the case where the input states are pure, whereas this cannot be done in general for non-qubit states.

**Example.** Note that \( \| \sqrt{A_1} \sqrt{A_2} \|_1 \leq \| \sqrt{B_1} \sqrt{B_2} \|_1 \) does not imply \( \| A_1 - tA_2 \|_1 \geq \| B_1 - tB_2 \|_1 \) for all \( t \geq 0 \) if \( A_1 \) and \( A_2 \) are not of rank one. For example, let \( A_1 = \text{diag}(4/5, 1/5), A_2 = \text{diag}(1/3, 2/3) \) and
\[
B_1 = 
\begin{bmatrix}
 1/4 \\
 \sqrt{3}/4 \\
 3/4
\end{bmatrix},
B_2 = 
\begin{bmatrix}
 1/2 \\
 1/2 \\
 1/2
\end{bmatrix}.
\]
Then
\[
\| \sqrt{A_1} \sqrt{A_2} \|_1 = 0.8815 < 0.9659 = \| \sqrt{B_1} \sqrt{B_2} \|_1
\]
while
\[
\| A_1 - 5A_2 \|_1 = 4 < 4.1641 = \| B_1 - 5B_2 \|_1.
\]
So, what more can be said if we impose the additional restriction that the initial states are pure? Well, if we also assume that the final states are pure, we have the following interesting result from Theorem 7 of Ref. 2.

**Theorem 3.1.** Let \( x_i \in \mathbb{C}^n \) and \( y_i \in \mathbb{C}^m \) be unit vectors for \( i = 1, \ldots, k \). Let \( X = [x_1 | \ldots | x_k] \) and \( Y = [y_1 | \ldots | y_k] \). Then there exists a TPCP map \( T \) such that \( T(x_i x_i^*) = y_i y_i^* \), \( i = 1, \ldots, k \) if and only if \( X^* X = M \circ Y^* Y \) for some correlation matrix \( M \in \mathbb{M}_k \).

Note this gives a computationally efficient condition to check if the matrix \( Y^* Y \) has no zero entries. We will use this result as a model to generalize in the rest of the paper, starting with the general case, and then, in the subsequent subsection, we consider keeping pure input states, but relax the condition that the final states be pure. Section IV examines how this theorem changes when the maps are not necessarily trace-preserving.

### B. Mixed states to mixed states

In this subsection we consider the difficult problem of characterizing TPCP maps sending \( k \) initial states to \( k \) final states (not necessarily of the same dimension), starting with the general case, and then considering special cases that are more tractable. The following theorem is rather technical, but it does provide a useful framework for the most general situation, and can be readily applied to quickly derive existing results under more specialized circumstances. The multiple equivalent conditions reflect various approaches and serve as a segue between different viewpoints and lines of attack on a problem. Note that we ignore zero eigenvalues when using the spectral decomposition in the theorem’s statement so as to eliminate redundancies, thus preventing matrices from becoming artificially large.

**Theorem 3.2.** Suppose \( A_1, \ldots, A_k \in \mathbb{M}_n \) and \( B_1, \ldots, B_k \in \mathbb{M}_m \) are density matrices. Using the spectral decomposition, for each \( i = 1, \ldots, k \), we may write \( A_i = X_i D_i^* X_i^* \) and \( B_i = Y_i D_i^* Y_i^* \), where \( X_i, Y_i \) are partial isometries, and \( D_i \in \mathbb{M}_n \), \( D_i \in \mathbb{M}_m \) are diagonal matrices whose diagonal entries are given by the square roots of the positive eigenvalues of \( A_i, B_i \), respectively. The following conditions are equivalent.

(a) There is a TPCP map \( T: \mathbb{M}_n \to \mathbb{M}_m \) such that \( T(A_i) = B_i \) for \( i = 1, \ldots, k \).

(b) For each \( i = 1, \ldots, k \) and \( j = 1, \ldots, r_i \), there are \( s_i \times s \) matrices \( V_{ij} \) such that

\[
\sum_{j=1}^{r_i} V_{ij} V_{ij}^* = I_{s_i}
\]

and the \((p, q)\) entry of the \( r_i \times r_j \) matrix \( D_i X_i^* X_j D_j \) equals \( \text{tr}(V_{ip}^* \tilde{D}_i Y_i^* Y_j \tilde{D}_j V_{jq}) \).

(c) There are vectors \( x_i = \begin{bmatrix} x_{i1} \\
\vdots \\
x_{ir_i} \end{bmatrix} \in (\mathbb{C}^n)^r \) and vectors \( y_{ij} = \begin{bmatrix} y_{ij1} \\
\vdots \\
y_{ijr_j} \end{bmatrix} \in (\mathbb{C}^m)^r \) for \( i = 1, \ldots, k \)

and \( j = 1, \ldots, r \) such that \( A_i = \sum_{j=1}^{r_i} x_{ij} x_{ij}^* \), \( B_i = \sum_{j=1}^{r_j} y_{ij} (y_{ij}^*)^* \) and there is a unitary \( U \in \mathbb{M}_{ms} \) satisfying

\[
U \begin{bmatrix}
x_{i1} & \cdots & x_{ir_i} \\
0_{m-n} & \cdots & 0_{m-n}
\end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix}
y_{i1} & \cdots & y_{ir_i} \\
\vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\
y_{i1} & \cdots & y_{ir_i}
\end{bmatrix}.
\]

**Proof.** (a) \(\Rightarrow\) (b). Let \( e_i \) denote the vector with 1 in the \( i \)th position and 0 in the other positions. Note that \( AA^* \leq BB^* \) in the Loewner order (that is, \( BB^* - AA^* \) is positive semidefinite) if and only if \( A = BC \) for some contraction \( C \). As in Eq. (1), we may use the operator sum representation for a
TPCP map to write $T(A_i) = \sum_{i=1}^{s} F_i A_i F_i^*$ for some $m \times n$ matrices $F_i$. Thus

$$(Y, \tilde{D}_i)(Y, \tilde{D}_i)^* = B_i = T(A_i) = \sum_{i=1}^{s} F_i X_i D_i^2 X_i^* F_i^* \geq (F_i X_i D_i e_j)(F_i X_i D_i e_j)^*$$

for any $i,j,l$, whence $F_i X_i D_i e_j = Y_i \tilde{D}_i c_{ij}'$, for some vectors $c_{ij}' \in \mathbb{C}^n$. Let $V_{ij} = [c_{ij}']$. Since $T(A_i) = B_i$ it follows that $\sum_{j=1}^{r_i} V_{ij} V_{ij}^* = I_{r_i}$.

The trace-preserving condition $\sum_{i=1}^{s} F_i^* F_i = I_n$ implies that there is a unitary matrix $U \in M_{ms}$ whose first $n$ columns are given by $[F_1^* \ldots F_s^*]^\top$. The rest of (b) follows by noting that the inner product of any two columns of the $ms \times (r_1 + \cdots + r_k)$ matrix

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} X_1 D_1 & \cdots & X_k D_k \\ 0_{ms-n} & \cdots & 0_{ms-n} \end{bmatrix}$$

must equal the inner product of the corresponding two columns of $UX$.

(b) $\Rightarrow$ (c). Let $r = \max r_i$. Set $x_{ji} = X_i D_i e_j$ if $j \leq r_i$ and $x_{ji} = 0$ otherwise. Let $y_{ji} = Y_i \tilde{D}_i V_{ij} e_l$ for $l = 1, \ldots, s$ if $j \leq r_i$, and set $y_{ji} = 0$ otherwise. Then the summations to $A_i$ and $B_i$ are clearly satisfied. Finally, the last condition of (b) implies that the inner product of $x_{pi}$ and $x_{qi}$ equals the inner product of $y_{pi}$ and $y_{qi}$, and this entails the existence of a unitary $U$ satisfying the final condition of (c).

(c) $\Rightarrow$ (a). Let $[F_1^* \ldots F_s^*]$ be the first $n$ rows of $U^*$, and define $T$ by $T(X) = \sum_{j=1}^{s} F_j X F_j^*$. The result follows.

The conditions (b) and (c) are not easy to check. It would be interesting to find more explicit and computationally efficient conditions. Nonetheless, one can use the above theorem to deduce Corollary 10 in Ref. 2 for TPCP maps from general states to pure states.

**Corollary 3.3.** Suppose $A_1, \ldots, A_k \in M_n$ and $B_1 = y_1 y_1^* \ldots, B_k = y_k y_k^* \in M_n$ are density matrices. For each $i = 1, \ldots, k$, write $A_i = X_i D_i^2 X_i^*$ such that $D_i \in M_{r_i}$ are diagonal matrices with positive diagonal entries. The following conditions are equivalent.

(a) There is a TPCP map $T : M_n \rightarrow M_m$ such that $T(A_i) = B_i$ for $i = 1, \ldots, k$.
(b) For each $i = 1, \ldots, k$ and $j = 1, \ldots, r_i$, there are vectors $v_{ij}$ such that $\sum_{j=1}^{r_i} v_{ij}^* v_{ij} = 1$ and the $(p,q)$ entry of the $r_i \times r_j$ matrix $(D_i X_i^* X_j D_j)$ equals $v_{ip}^* v_{jq} y_{i} y_{j}$.
(c) For each $i = 1, \ldots, k$ and $j = 1, \ldots, r_i$, there are vectors $v_{ij}$ such that $\sum_{j=1}^{r_i} v_{ij}^* v_{ij} = 1$ and a unitary $U$ satisfying

$$U \begin{bmatrix} X_1 D_1 & \cdots & X_k D_k \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} v_{11} \otimes y_1 & \cdots & v_{1r_1} \otimes y_1 & \cdots & v_{k1} \otimes y_k & \cdots & v_{kr_k} \otimes y_k \end{bmatrix}.$$
(d) There are unit vectors $v_1, \ldots, v_k \in \mathbb{C}^r$ and a unitary $U \in M_{mr}$ such that

$$U \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & \cdots & x_k \\ 0_{ms-n} & \cdots & 0_{ms-n} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \otimes y_1 & \cdots & v_k \otimes y_k \end{bmatrix}.$$  

Note the equivalence of conditions (a) and (c) above is just Theorem 3.1.

### C. Pure states to mixed states

Next, we turn to TPCP maps sending pure states to possibly mixed states, and give a number of necessary and sufficient conditions for their existence. This problem was also considered in Ref. 2 using the concept of multi-probabilistic transformations. We instead rely on purifications of mixed states, with the aim of generalizing Theorem 3.1.

**Theorem 3.5.** Suppose $x_1, \ldots, x_k \in \mathbb{C}^n$ are unit vectors and $B_1, \ldots, B_k \in M_m$ are density matrices. Then there is a TPCP map $T$ such that $T(x_1 x_i^*) = B_i$ if and only if there exist purifications $y_i$ of $B_i$ such that $X \mapsto Y$, where $X = [x_1 \ldots x_k]$ and $Y = [y_1 \ldots y_k]$.

**Proof.** Suppose there is a TPCP map $T$ such that $T(x_1 x_i^*) = B_i$. Write $T(A) = \sum_{j=1}^r F_j A F_j^*$. Since $T$ is trace-preserving, $[F_1^* F_2^* \ldots F_r^*]$ has orthonormal rows and can be extended to a unitary matrix $U^* \in M_{mr}$. Define $y_i = U(x_i \otimes 0_{mr-n})$. Write

$$y_i = \begin{bmatrix} y_{1i} \\ \vdots \\ y_{ri} \end{bmatrix} \in (\mathbb{C}^m)^r, \quad \tilde{X} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & \cdots & x_k \\ 0_{mr-n} & \cdots & 0_{mr-n} \end{bmatrix}.$$  

Then $F_j x_i = y_{ji}$, and $B_i = T(x_i x_i^*) = \sum_{j=1}^r y_{ji} y_{ji}^*$, so $y_i$ is a purification of $B_i$. Moreover $Y^*Y = (U \tilde{X})^* U \tilde{X} = X^* \tilde{X} = X^* X$ as desired.

Conversely, suppose we have purifications $y_i$ of $B_i$, written as in (4) with $B_i = \sum_{j=1}^r y_{ji} y_{ji}^*$. If $Y^*Y = X^* X = \tilde{X}^* \tilde{X} = X^* X$ as desired, then, since $Y$ and $\tilde{X}$ have the same dimensions, there exists a unitary $U$ such that $Y = U \tilde{X}$. Write $U = \begin{bmatrix} F_1 \star \\ \vdots \star \\ F_r \star \end{bmatrix}$ where each $F_i \in M_{mr}$. Then the map $T$ defined by

$$T(A) = \sum_{j=1}^r F_j A F_j^*$$

is a TPCP map sending $x_i x_i^*$ to $B_i$ for all $i$. □

**Remark.** To make the similarity to Theorem 3.1 more apparent, note that both conditions in this theorem are equivalent to

$$X^* X = M \circ Y^* Y$$

for some correlation matrix $M$.  

Indeed, if (5) holds, write $M = C^* C$ and $C = [c_1 | \ldots | c_k]$. Since $M_{ii} = 1$, $c_i$ is a unit vector. Let $\tilde{y}_i = c_i \otimes y_i$ and $\tilde{Y} = [\tilde{y}_1 | \ldots | \tilde{y}_k]$. Then $\tilde{y}_i, i = 1, \ldots, k$, are purifications of $B_i$ and $\tilde{Y}^* \tilde{Y} = X^* X$, so we have the second condition in the theorem. The reverse implication is trivial.

One definition for the *fidelity* between two states $A$ and $B$ is

$$F(A, B) = \| \sqrt{A} \sqrt{B} \|_1 = \sup \{|\text{tr} \sqrt{A} \sqrt{B} V| : V \text{ is a contraction}\}.$$  

It is known that a necessary (but not in general sufficient) condition for the existence of a TPCP map sending $A_1, \ldots, A_k$ to $B_1, \ldots, B_k$ is that

$$F(B_i, B_j) \geq F(A_i, A_j) \text{ for all } 1 \leq i, j \leq k$$  

(see Lemma 1 of Ref. 2). The corollary below allows us to deduce this fact immediately when the input states are pure (since $F(x_i x_i^*, x_j x_j^*) = |x_i^* x_j|$. It also illustrates what missing information (namely, the partial isometries $V_j$) is needed in conjunction with (6) to create a sufficient condition for the existence of a TPCP map. Unfortunately, it is still not very computationally efficient.
Corollary 3.6. Suppose $x_1, \ldots, x_k \in \mathbb{C}^n$ are unit vectors and $B_1, \ldots, B_k \in M_m$ are density matrices. Then there is a TPCP map $T$ such that $T(x_i x_i^*) = B_i$ for $i = 1, \ldots, k$ if and only if there exist partial isometries $V_i \in M_{mrr}$ such that
\[
\sqrt{B_i} V_i V_i^* \sqrt{B_i} = B_i \quad \text{and} \quad x_i^* x_j = \text{tr} \sqrt{B_i} \sqrt{B_j} V_i V_j^* \quad \text{for all } i, j.
\] (7)

Proof. Suppose $V_1, \ldots, V_k$ are partial isometries satisfying (7). Let $Y_i = \sqrt{B_i} V_i \in M_{mrr}$, write $Y_i = [y_{1i} \ldots y_{ki}]$, and define $y_i \in \mathbb{C}^{cm}$ as in (4). Then $B_i = Y_i Y_i^* = \sum_{j=1}^r y_{ji} y_{ji}^*$, so $y_i$ is a purification of $B_i$. Since $X^* X = Y^* Y$ for $X = [x_1 \ldots x_k]$ and $Y = [y_{11} \ldots y_{kk}]$, the result follows by Theorem 3.5.

Conversely, by Theorem 3.5, we may assume there are purifications $y_i$ of $B_i$ in the form of (4) and $X^* X = Y^* Y$. Let $Y_i = [y_{1i} \ldots y_{ki}] \in M_{mr}$. Since $Y_i Y_i^* = B_i$, there exist partial isometries $V_i \in M_{mrr}$ such that $Y_i = \sqrt{B_i} V_i$. But $x_i^* x_j = \text{tr} Y_i^* Y_j$, so (7) holds.

IV. GENERAL PHYSICAL TRANSFORMATIONS ON PURE STATES

Theorem 3.1 (quoted from Ref. 2) gives a simple criterion for the existence of a TPCP map sending pure states $x_1 x_1^*, \ldots, x_k x_k^*$ to pure states $y_1 y_1^*, \ldots, y_k y_k^*$. One might wonder how to generalize this criterion to handle arbitrary interpolating CP maps. The remark in Ref. 2 after Theorem 7 seems to assert that there exists a CP map sending $x_i x_i^*$ to $y_i y_i^*$ if and only if $X^* X = M \circ Y^* Y$ for some positive semidefinite $M$ (without any restriction on the diagonal entries of $M$). However, this condition is neither necessary nor sufficient.

For example, let $\{e_1, e_2\}$ be the standard basis for $\mathbb{C}^2$. Take $x_1 = e_1$, $x_2 = (e_1 + e_2)/\sqrt{2}$ and $y_1 = e_1$, $y_2 = e_2$. Then $M \circ Y^* Y = M \circ I$ is diagonal for any matrix $M$, but $X^* X$ has nonzero off-diagonal entries, so the condition is not satisfied. Nonetheless, there is a CP map sending $x_i x_i^*$ to $y_j y_j^*$; let $S \in M_2$ be such that $S x_i = y_i$. Then the CP map $T(A) = SAS^*$ works.

On the other hand, let $x_1 = x_2 = e_1$. Let $y_1 = e_1$, $y_2 = 2e_1$. Let $M = (e_1 + 0.5e_2)(e_1 + 0.5e_2)^*$. Then $X^* X = M \circ Y^* Y$ is the matrix of all ones. But clearly there is no map $T$ sending $e_1 e_1^*$ to both $e_1 e_1^*$ and $4e_1 e_1^*$.

The following results consider interpolating CP maps and unital CP maps, generalizing Theorem 3.1, and giving necessary and sufficient conditions in the same spirit as Ref. 2.

**Theorem 4.1.** Fix positive semidefinite rank-one matrices $x_i x_i^* \in M_m$ and $y_i y_i^* \in M_m$ for $i = 1 \ldots k$. Let $X = [x_1 \ldots x_k]$ and $Y = [y_1 \ldots y_k]$. Then there exists a completely positive map $T$ such that $T(x_i x_i^*) = y_i y_i^*$ if and only if there exists a positive semidefinite matrix $M \in M_k$ such that $\ker X^* X \subseteq \ker M \circ (Y^* Y)$.

**Proof.** There exists a completely positive map $T$ such that $T(x_i x_i^*) = y_i y_i^*$ if and only if
\[
\exists F_1, \ldots, F_r \in M_{mn} \text{ such that } \sum_{j=1}^r F_j x_i x_j^* F_j^* = y_i y_i^* \quad \forall i = 1, \ldots, k
\]
\[
\iff \exists F_1, \ldots, F_r \in M_{mn} \text{ and unit vectors } c_1, \ldots, c_k \in \mathbb{C}^c \text{ such that } F_j x_i = c_{ij} y_i
\]
\[
\iff \exists F_j \in M_{mn}, \text{ unit vectors } c_j \in \mathbb{C}^c \text{ so that } F_j X = Y \Gamma_j \text{ where } \Gamma_j \text{ is diagonal with } (\Gamma_j)_{ii} = c_{ij}
\]
\[
\iff \exists \text{ diagonal } \Gamma_j \in M_k \text{ with } \sum_{j=1}^r \Gamma_j \Gamma_j^* = I_k \text{ such that rowspace } Y \Gamma_j \subseteq \text{rowspace } X \forall j
\]
(equivalently, $\ker X \subseteq \ker Y \Gamma_j \forall j$, or $\ker X^* X \subseteq \ker \Gamma_j^* Y^* Y \Gamma_j \forall j$)
\[
\iff \ker X^* X \subseteq \ker M \circ Y^* Y \text{ where } (M_{ii})_{ij} = (\Gamma_j)_{ii}(\Gamma_j)_{jj}
\]
and $M = \sum_{i=1}^r M_i$ is a positive semidefinite matrix with $M_{ii} = 1$. \qed
We will present a result on unital completely positive maps sending pure states to pure states as a corollary of the following more general result. Recall that for a rank $r$ positive semidefinite matrix $A \in M_n$ with spectral decomposition $A = \lambda_1 u_1 u_1^* + \cdots + \lambda_r u_r u_r^*$, where $\{u_1, \ldots, u_r\} \subseteq \mathbb{C}^n$ is an orthonormal set of eigenvectors of $A$ corresponding to the positive eigenvalues $\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_r$, the Moore-Penrose inverse $A^+$ of $A$ has the spectral decomposition $A^+ = \lambda_1^{-1} u_1 u_1^* + \cdots + \lambda_r^{-1} u_r u_r^*$.

**Theorem 4.2.** Fix rank-one matrices $x_i x_i^* \in M_n$ and $y_i y_i^* \in M_m$ for $i = 1 \ldots k$. Fix a positive semidefinite matrix $B \in M_n$. Let $X = [x_1 x_2 \ldots x_k]$ and $Y = [y_1 y_2 \ldots y_k]$. Then there exists a completely positive linear map $T: M_n \to M_m$ such that

$$T(I) = B \quad \text{and} \quad T(x_i x_i^*) = y_i y_i^* \quad \text{for} \ i = 1, \ldots, k,$$

if and only if there exists a positive semidefinite matrix $M \in M_k$ with $M_{ii} = 1$ such that

$$\begin{align*}
\text{(1) ker } X^* X &\subseteq \ker M \circ (Y^* Y) \quad \text{and} \\
\text{(2) } Y[\tilde{M} \circ (X^* X)^+]Y^* &\leq B,
\end{align*}$$

(with equality in (2) should $X$ have rank $n$). Here $X^+$ denotes the Moore-Penrose inverse of $X$.

**Proof.** Note that the existence of a CP map $T$ such that $T(I) = B$ and $T(x_i x_i^*) = y_i y_i^*$ is equivalent to the existence of $F_1, \ldots, F_r \in M_{mn}$ satisfying

$$\begin{align*}
(a) &\quad \sum_{j=1}^r F_j x_i x_i^* F_j^* = y_i y_i^* \quad \forall i \quad \text{and} \quad (b) \sum_{j=1}^r F_j F_j^* = B.
\end{align*}$$

Proof of Necessity: Condition (a) and the proof of Theorem 4.1 imply that $F_j X = Y T_j$ for some diagonal $\Gamma_j \in M_r$ with $\sum_{j=1}^r \Gamma_j \Gamma_j^* = I_k$. Moreover condition (1) follows with the matrix $M$ defined by $M_{ij} = \sum_{j=1}^r (\Gamma_j)_{ii} (\Gamma_j)_{jj}$.

Let $P$ denote the orthogonal projection $XX^+$, and let $P^\perp = I_n - P$. Then $F_j P = F_j XX^+ = YT_j X^+$, so

$$B = \sum_{j=1}^r F_j F_j^* = \sum_{j=1}^r (F_j P + F_j P^\perp)(P F_j^* + P P_j^*) = \sum_{j=1}^r F_j P P_j F_j^* + F_j P^\perp F_j^*$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^r Y \Gamma_j X^+(X^+)^* \Gamma_j^* Y^* + \sum_{j=1}^r F_j P^\perp F_j^*$$

$$= Y[\tilde{M} \circ (X^* X)]Y^* + \sum_{j=1}^r F_j P^\perp F_j^*$$

$$\geq Y[\tilde{M} \circ (X^* X)]Y^*$$

with equality if $P = I_n$, that is, if $X$ has rank $n$.

Proof of Sufficiency: Since $M$ is positive semidefinite with $M_{ii} = 1$, we can write $M = C^* C$ where $C = [c_1 | c_2 | \ldots | c_k] \in M_k$, and $c_i$ is a unit vector for all $i$. If necessary, we may append extra zero entries to the end of each $c_i$ so that we may assume $r \geq m$. Define diagonal matrices $\Gamma_j \in M_k$ by $(\Gamma_j)_{ii} = c_{ii}$. Then

$$M \circ Y^* Y = \sum_{j=1}^r \Gamma_j^* Y^* Y \Gamma_j, \quad \tilde{M} \circ (X^* X)^+ = \sum_{j=1}^r \Gamma_j (X^* X)^+ \Gamma_j^*, \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{j=1}^r \Gamma_j \Gamma_j^* = I_k.$$

Condition (2) implies

$$B = Y[\tilde{M} \circ (X^* X)]Y^* + E E^*$$

for some $E$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^r Y \Gamma_j (X^* X)^+ \Gamma_j^* Y^* + \sum_{j=1}^r G_j P^\perp G_j^*,$$
where we may choose $G_j \in M_{mk}$ so that $G_j P_j G_j^*$ is proportional to an eigenprojection for $EE^*$ with rank at most one. Note that $P_j = 0$ if and only if $X$ has rank $n$.

Define $F_j = Y \Gamma_j X^+ + G_j P_j$. Then

$$\sum_{j=1}^r F_j F_j^* = \sum_{j=1}^r Y \Gamma_j X^+(X^+)^\dagger \Gamma_j Y^* + G_j P_j G_j^* + Y \Gamma_j X^+ P_j G_j^* + G_j P_j (X^+)^\dagger \Gamma_j Y^*$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^r Y \Gamma_j X^+(X^+)^\dagger \Gamma_j Y^* + G_j P_j G_j^* = B$$

since $X^+ P_j = X^+(I - XX^+) = 0$, and the fourth term in the second sum is the adjoint of the third term.

On the other hand

$$F_j X = Y \Gamma_j (X^+ X - I + I) + G_j P_j X$$

$$= -Y \Gamma_j (I - X^+ X) + Y \Gamma_j + G_j (I - XX^+) X.$$

But $I - X^+ X$ is the orthogonal projection onto $\ker X$; since condition (1) implies $\ker X \subseteq \ker Y \Gamma_j$ for all $j$, the first term must be 0. And $(I - XX^+) X = X - XX^+ X = 0$, so the third term vanishes. Thus $F_j X = Y \Gamma_j$ for all $j$, and

$$\sum_{j=1}^r F_j x_i x_i^* F_j^* = y_i y_i^* \text{ for all } i = 1, \ldots, k$$

as desired. \hfill \Box

**Corollary 4.3.** Fix $x_i x_i^* \in M_n$ and $y_i y_i^* \in M_m$ for $i = 1, \ldots, k$. Write $X = [x_1, \ldots, x_k]$ and $Y = [y_1, \ldots, y_k]$. Then there exists a unital completely positive map $T$ satisfying $T(x_i x_i^*) = y_i y_i^*$ for all $i = 1, \ldots, k$ if and only if there exists a positive semidefinite matrix $M \in M_k$ with $M_{ii} = 1$ such that

1. $\ker X^+ X \subseteq \ker M \circ (Y^* Y)$
2. $Y [\bar{M} \circ (X^* X)] Y^* \leq I_m$.

(with equality in (2) should $X$ have rank $n$).

**Proof.** Take $B = I_m$ in Theorem 4.2. \hfill \Box

**Corollary 4.4.** Use the notation in Corollary 4.3. There is a unital TPCP map sending $x_1 x_1^*, \ldots, x_k x_k^*$ to $y_1 y_1^*, \ldots, y_k y_k^*$ if and only if $m = n$ and there exists a positive semidefinite matrix $M \in M_k$ with $M_{ii} = 1$ such that

1. $X^* X = M \circ (Y^* Y)$
2. $Y [\bar{M} \circ (X^* X)] Y^* \leq I_n$.

(with equality in (2) should $X$ have rank $n$).

**Note added in proof**

Reference 4 was brought to our attention by one of the referees. In it, the authors independently obtain our condition (c) in Theorem 2.2. Moreover, they extend the result by allowing final states to have dimension greater than two, although it appears that our proof is self-contained, and uses more elementary methods. They also consider the problem of approximately mapping a set of initial states to a set of final states via CP maps. In Ref. 6, the authors obtain related results for the special case of commutative families of states.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

This research was supported by the RGC grant PolyU 502910 with Sze as PI and Li as co-PI. The grant supported the post-doctoral fellowship of Huang at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University,
and the visit of Poon to the University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University in the spring of 2012. Li was also supported by a USA NSF grant; he was a visiting professor of the University of Hong Kong in the spring of 2012, an honorary professor of Taiyuan University of Technology (100 Talent Program scholar), and an honorary professor of the Shanghai University.

The authors would like to thank Dr. J. Wu and Dr. L. Zhang for drawing their attention to the papers;\cite{1,2} and thank Dr. H. F. Chau, Dr. W. S. Cheung, Dr. C. H. Fung, and Dr. Z. D. Wang for helpful discussion. The authors would also like to thank the referees and editors for their helpful comments to improve this paper.

\begin{thebibliography}{1}
\end{thebibliography}