

## 8. Modelling noise: mixed state QM & Q operations

### States:

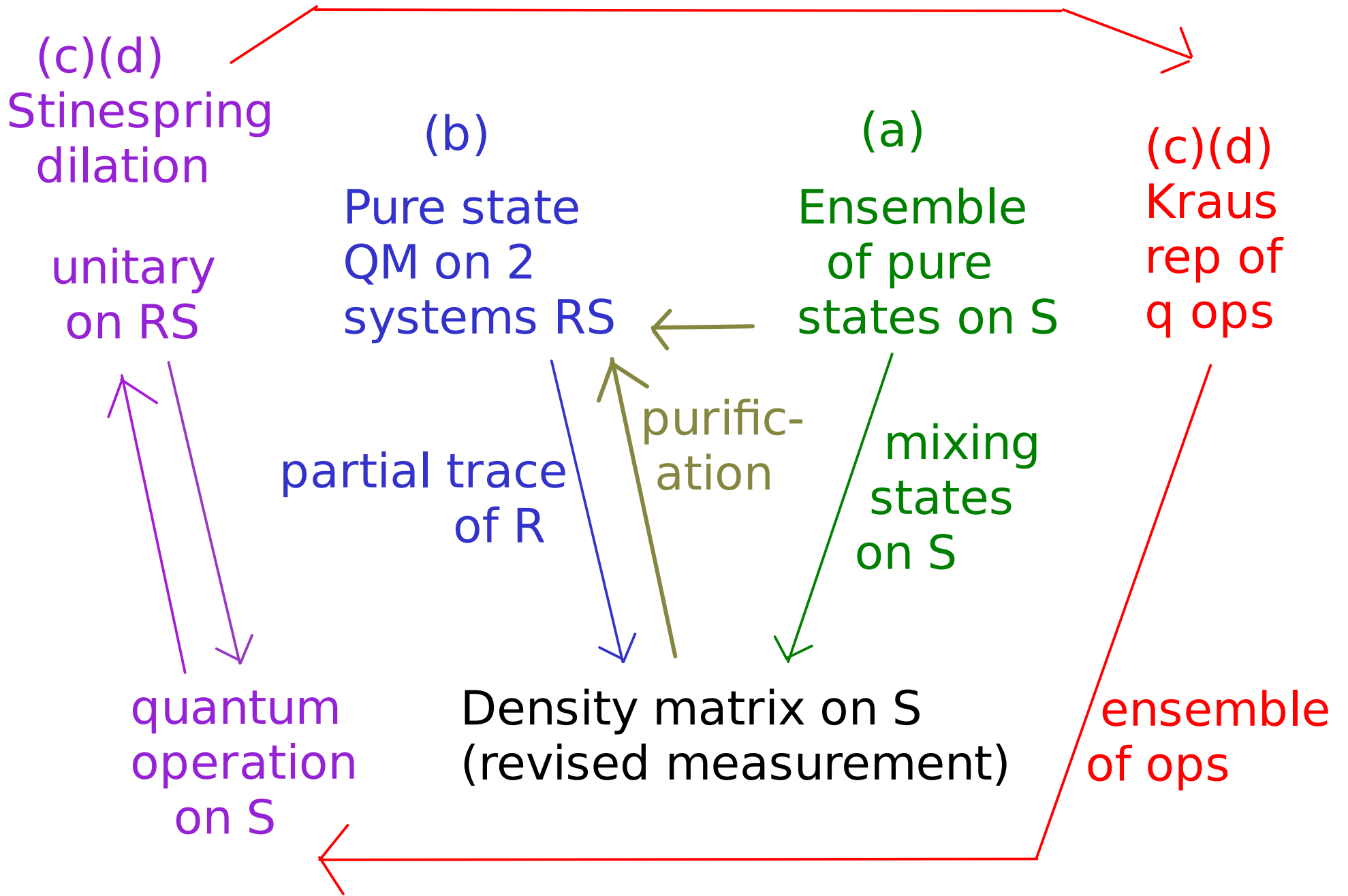
- (b) States on composite systems (NC 8.3.1, 2.5, KLM 3.5.2)
- (a) Noisy quantum data (NC 2.4, KLM 3.5.1)

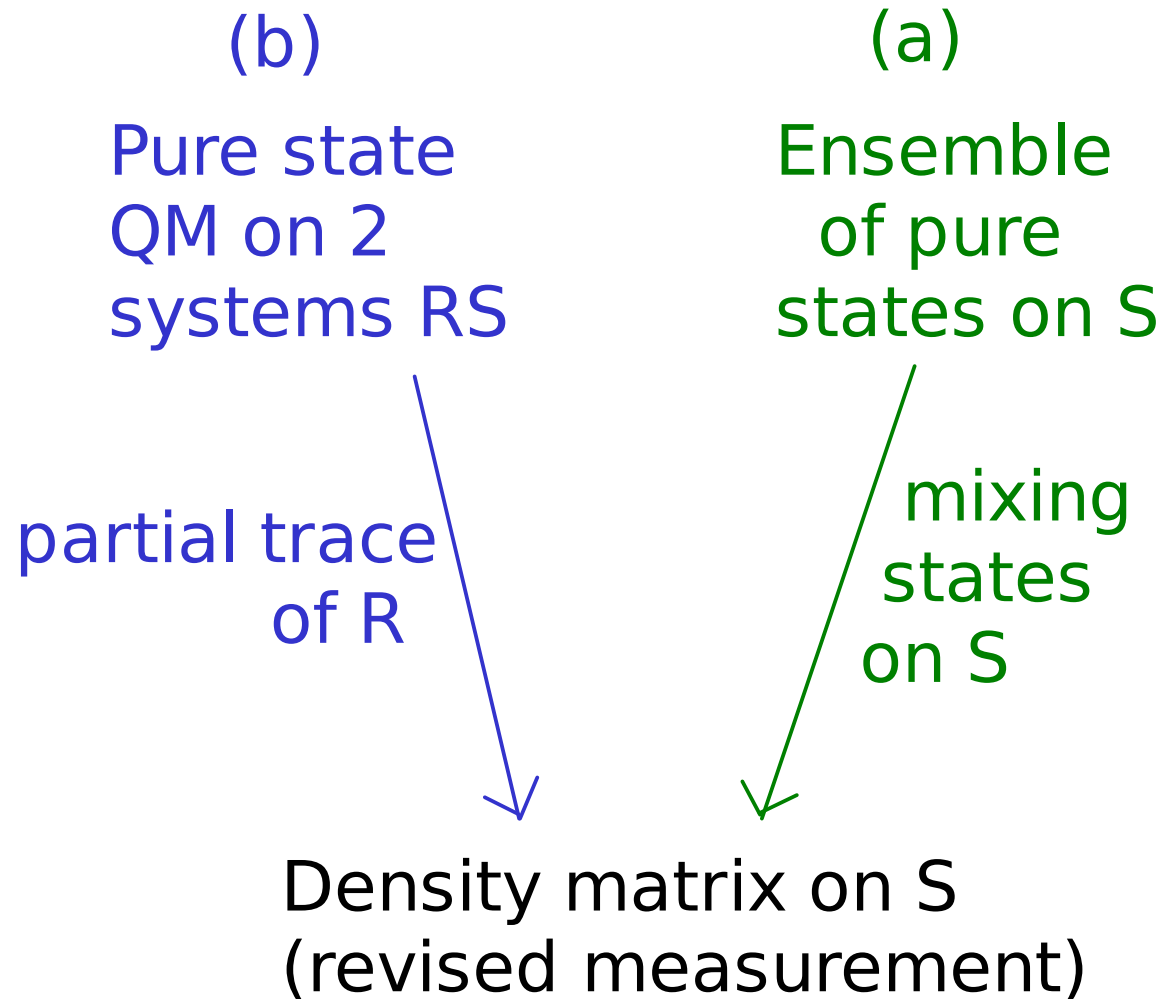
### Evolution:

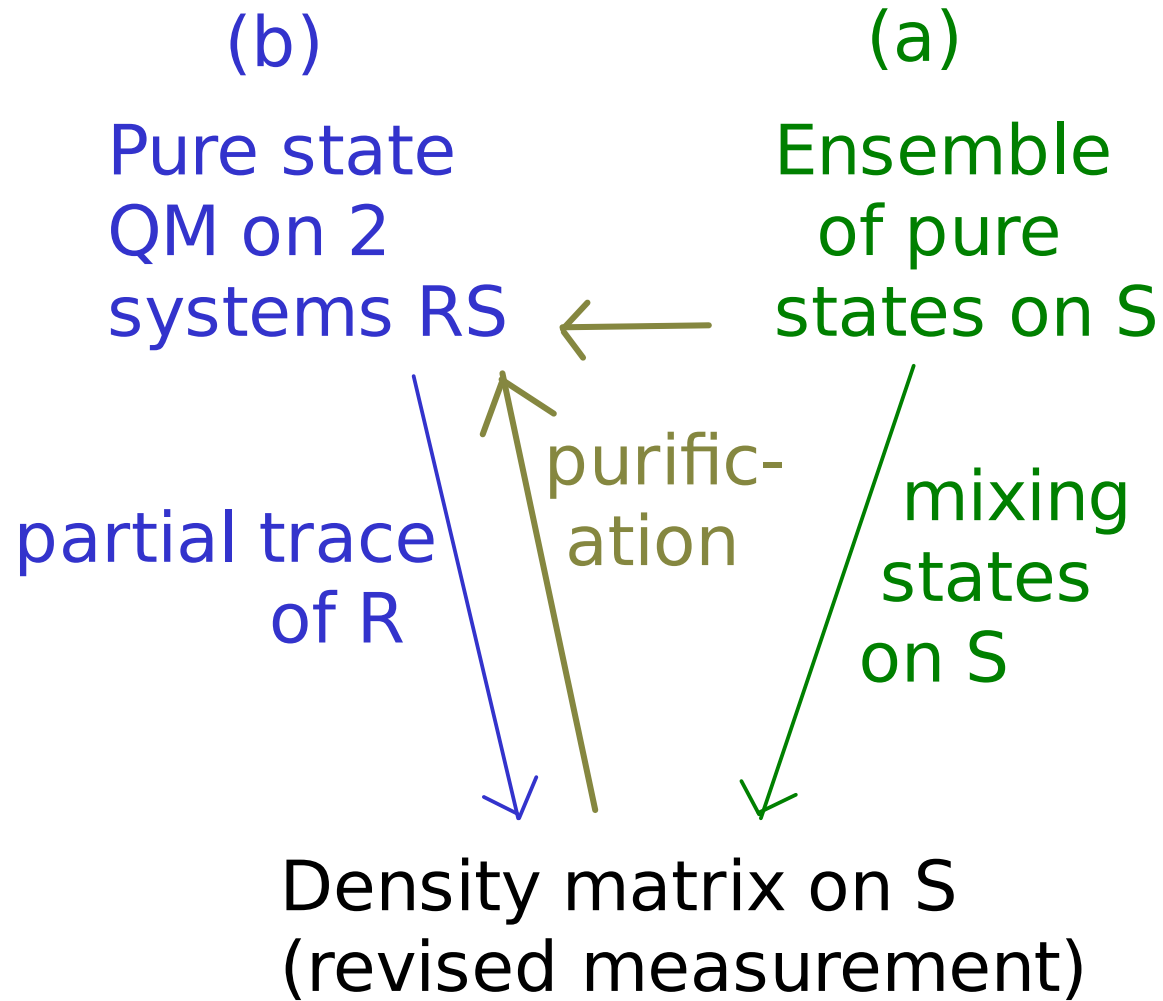
- (c) Most general (noisy) quantum dynamics
- (d) Characterizations (NC 8.2, KLM 3.5.3)
- (e) Important examples (NC 8.3)

### Measurements:

- (f) POVM measurements (NC 2.2.6, KLM A8)
- (g) Trace distance, indistinguishability,  
Helstrom-Holevo theorem (NC 9.2, KLM A8)

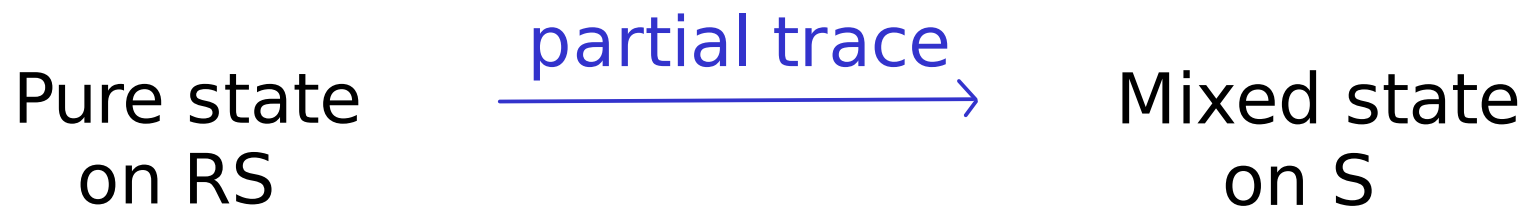






Concept: accessing 1 out of 2 systems

Physically irreversible unless discarding  
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Conceptual inverse of partial trace, not physically possible, crucial in cryptography and extremely useful in general.

Definition: given a density matrix  $\rho$  on a system S, a purification of  $\rho$  is a pure state  $|\Psi\rangle$  on S and an auxiliary system (say, R), such that  $\text{tr}_R |\Psi\rangle\langle\Psi| = \rho$ .



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Given a density matrix,

- (1) is there always a purification?
- (2) how big does the "purifying system" ( $R$ ) have to be?
- (3) if purifications exist, how are they related?

## Example:

Recall that for any basis  $\{|e_i\rangle\}$  on  $R$

any unit vectors  $|\eta_i\rangle$  on  $S$

$$|\Psi\rangle = \sum_i a_i |e_i\rangle |\eta_i\rangle \text{ on } RS$$

$$\text{tr}_R |\Psi\rangle\langle\Psi| = \sum_i a_i^2 |\eta_i\rangle\langle\eta_i| = \rho_S$$

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$$\text{e.g. } \rho = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{3}{4} & \frac{1}{6} \\ \frac{1}{6} & \frac{1}{4} \end{pmatrix} = \lambda_1 |e_1\rangle\langle e_1| + \lambda_2 |e_2\rangle\langle e_2|$$
$$\lambda_1 \doteq 0.80, \quad \lambda_2 \doteq 0.20$$

$$|e_1\rangle \doteq \begin{pmatrix} 0.96 \\ 0.29 \end{pmatrix}, \quad |e_2\rangle \doteq \begin{pmatrix} 0.29 \\ -0.96 \end{pmatrix}$$

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Possible

purification:  $|\Psi\rangle = \sqrt{\lambda_1} |1\rangle |e_1\rangle + \sqrt{\lambda_2} |2\rangle |e_2\rangle$

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Extension of (ii): Suppose

$|\Psi_1\rangle$  : purification of  $\rho$  with purifying system R1

$|\Psi_2\rangle$  : purification of  $\rho$  with purifying system R2

WLOG,  $\dim(R2)$  is no less than  $\dim(R1)$ .

Then,  $|\Psi_2\rangle = U \otimes I_S |\Psi_1\rangle$  for some isometry U from R1 to R2.

The proof for  $R1=R2$  holds for this extension (modifications needed will be made in green).

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$$\begin{aligned} \text{tr}_R |\psi\rangle\langle\psi| &= \sum_{k=1}^{\text{rk}(\rho)} \langle k|_R \otimes I_S |\psi\rangle\langle\psi|_R \otimes I_S \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^{\text{rk}(\rho)} \sqrt{\lambda_k} |e_k\rangle\langle e_k| \sqrt{\lambda_k} = \rho \end{aligned}$$

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Partial-trace of R gives a sum of at most r rank-1 projectors, with rank at most r. So,  $\text{rank}(\rho) \leq r$ .

We saw earlier that if  $|\Psi\rangle$  is a purification of  $\rho$ , so is  $U \otimes I |\Psi\rangle_{RS}$  for any unitary  $U$  on  $R$ .

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To see (ii), consider partial trace with the 1st rep of bipartite states on  $RS$ .

$$\text{Let } |\Psi\rangle = \sum_{ij} \alpha_{ij} |i\rangle |j\rangle.$$

$$\text{Let } M = \sum_{ij} \alpha_{ij} |j\rangle \langle i|.$$

$$\sum_{ij} = \sum_{i=1}^{\dim(R)} \sum_{j=1}^{\dim(S)}$$

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Let  $|\Psi\rangle = \sum_{\bar{i}\bar{j}} \alpha_{\bar{i}\bar{j}} |\bar{i}\rangle | \bar{j}\rangle$ .

$$\sum_{\bar{i}\bar{j}} = \sum_{\bar{i}=1}^{\dim(R)} \sum_{\bar{j}=1}^{\dim(S)}$$

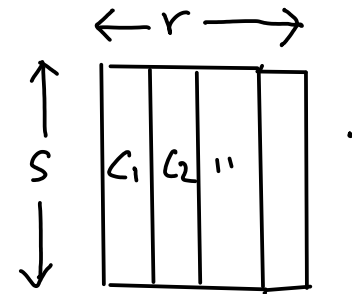
Let  $M = \sum_{\bar{i}\bar{j}} \alpha_{\bar{i}\bar{j}} |\bar{j}\rangle \langle \bar{i}|$ .

The transformation  $|\Psi\rangle \rightarrow M$  defines a bijection from  $rs$ -dim vectors to  $r$ -by- $s$  matrices.

Ex: check that

if  $|\psi\rangle = s \begin{pmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ \vdots \\ c_r \end{pmatrix}$  }  $r$  blocks

then  $M =$



call this  $\text{Mat}(|\psi\rangle)$



$$|\Psi\rangle_{RS} = \sum_{\bar{i}\bar{j}} \alpha_{\bar{i}\bar{j}} |\bar{i}\rangle | \bar{j}\rangle, \quad M = \sum_{\bar{i}\bar{j}} \alpha_{\bar{i}\bar{j}} |\bar{j}\rangle \langle \bar{i}|.$$

Lemma:  $\text{tr}_R |\Psi\rangle \langle \Psi| = MM^\dagger$

The proof is a useful exercise for W25.  
Answer in the next few pages.

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Proof: LHS =  $\sum_{k=1}^r \langle k| \otimes I |\Psi\rangle \langle \Psi| |k\rangle \otimes I$

$$\left| \begin{aligned} &\langle k| \otimes I |\Psi\rangle \\ &= \sum_j \alpha_{kj} |j\rangle \end{aligned} \right.$$

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Lemma:  $\text{tr}_R (|\Psi\rangle \langle \Psi|) = M M^\dagger$

Proof: LHS =  $\sum_{K=1}^r \langle K| \otimes I |\Psi\rangle \langle \Psi| |K\rangle \otimes I$   
 $= \sum_{K=1}^r \sum_j \alpha_{Kj} |\bar{j}\rangle \sum_{j'} \alpha_{Kj'}^* \langle \bar{j}'|$

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$$\text{RHS} = \sum_{\bar{i}\bar{j}} \alpha_{\bar{i}\bar{j}} |j\rangle \langle \bar{i}| \left( \sum_{\bar{i}'\bar{j}'} \alpha_{\bar{i}'\bar{j}'} |\bar{j}'\rangle \langle \bar{i}'| \right)^\dagger$$

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 $\delta_{\bar{i}\bar{i}'}$

$$= \sum_{\bar{i}} \sum_j \alpha_{\bar{i}\bar{j}} |\bar{j}\rangle \sum_{\bar{j}'} \alpha_{\bar{i}\bar{j}'}^* \langle \bar{j}'| = \text{LHS}$$

Theorem: (ii) if  $|\Psi_1\rangle, |\Psi_2\rangle$  are two purifications of  $\rho$  with purifying system R, then,  $|\Psi_2\rangle = U_R \otimes I_S |\Psi_1\rangle$  for some unitary U acting on R.

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Proof: let  $M_1 = \text{Mat}(|\Psi_1\rangle), M_2 = \text{Mat}(|\Psi_2\rangle)$ .



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$$\text{then } \rho = \sum_{k=1}^{\text{rk}(\rho)} \lambda_k |e_k\rangle\langle e_k| = M_1 M_1^\dagger = M_2 M_2^\dagger.$$

spectral decomp
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Singular value decomp (SVD) :  $M = \sqrt{MM^\dagger} V$  (V unitary)

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Singular value decomp (SVD) :  $M = \sqrt{M M^\dagger} V$  (V unitary)

$$M_1 = \sum_{k=1}^{\text{rk}(\rho)} \sqrt{\lambda_k} |e_k\rangle\langle f_k| = \sqrt{\rho} U_1, \text{ where } U_1 = \sum_k |e_k\rangle\langle f_k|$$

$$M_2 = \sum_{k=1}^{\text{rk}(\rho)} \sqrt{\lambda_k} |e_k\rangle\langle g_k| = \sqrt{\rho} U_2, \text{ where } U_2 = \sum_k |e_k\rangle\langle g_k|$$

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$$= M_1 U_1^\dagger U_2$$

Let  $|\Psi_1\rangle = \sum_{\bar{i}\bar{j}} \alpha_{\bar{i}\bar{j}} |\bar{i}\rangle |\bar{j}\rangle$ ,  $M_1 = \sum_{\bar{i}\bar{j}} \alpha_{\bar{i}\bar{j}} |\bar{j}\rangle \langle \bar{i}|$ .

$$M_2 = M_1 U_1^\dagger U_2 = \sum_{\bar{i}\bar{j}} \alpha_{\bar{i}\bar{j}} |\bar{j}\rangle (\langle \bar{i}| U_1^\dagger U_2) \leftarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{linear} \\ \text{comb of } \langle \bar{i}|'s \end{array}$$

Let  $|\Psi_1\rangle = \sum_{\bar{i}\bar{j}} d_{\bar{i}\bar{j}} |\bar{i}\rangle | \bar{j}\rangle$ ,  $M_1 = \sum_{\bar{i}\bar{j}} d_{\bar{i}\bar{j}} | \bar{j}\rangle \langle \bar{i}|$ .

$$M_2 = M_1 U_1^\dagger U_2 = \sum_{\bar{i}\bar{j}} d_{\bar{i}\bar{j}} | \bar{j}\rangle (\langle \bar{i}| U_1^\dagger U_2) \leftarrow \text{linear comb of } \langle l| \text{'s}$$

Let  $V = (U_1^\dagger U_2)^\dagger = U_2^\dagger U_1$

$$V | \bar{i}\rangle = \sum_l v_{i\bar{l}} | l\rangle$$

$$\langle \bar{i}| V^\dagger = \sum_l v_{i\bar{l}}^* \langle l|$$

$$\sum_{\bar{i}\bar{j}} d_{\bar{i}\bar{j}} | \bar{j}\rangle (\langle \bar{i}| U_1^\dagger U_2) = \sum_{\bar{i}\bar{j}} d_{\bar{i}\bar{j}} | \bar{j}\rangle \sum_l v_{i\bar{l}}^* \langle l|$$

Inverting Mat,  $|\Psi_2\rangle = \sum_{\bar{i}\bar{j}} d_{\bar{i}\bar{j}} \sum_l v_{i\bar{l}}^* | l\rangle | \bar{j}\rangle$

$$= \sum_{\bar{i}\bar{j}} d_{\bar{i}\bar{j}} V^* | \bar{i}\rangle | \bar{j}\rangle$$

$$= \sum_{\bar{i}\bar{j}} d_{\bar{i}\bar{j}} (U_2^\dagger U_1^* | \bar{i}\rangle) | \bar{j}\rangle$$

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$$M_2 = M_1 U_1^\dagger U_2 = \sum_{\bar{i}\bar{j}} \alpha_{\bar{i}\bar{j}} |j\rangle (\langle \bar{i}| U_1^\dagger U_2) \leftarrow \text{linear comb of } \langle \bar{i}| \text{'s}$$

$$\text{So } |\Psi_2\rangle = \sum_{\bar{i}\bar{j}} \alpha_{\bar{i}\bar{j}} (U_2^\dagger U_1^* |\bar{i}\rangle) |j\rangle. \leftarrow \text{previous page}$$

Let  $|\Psi_1\rangle = \sum_{i,j} \alpha_{ij} |i\rangle |j\rangle$ ,  $M_1 = \sum_{i,j} \alpha_{ij} |j\rangle \langle i|$ .

$$M_2 = M_1 U_1^\dagger U_2 = \sum_{i,j} \alpha_{ij} |j\rangle (\langle i| U_1^\dagger U_2) \leftarrow \text{linear comb of } \langle i|'s$$

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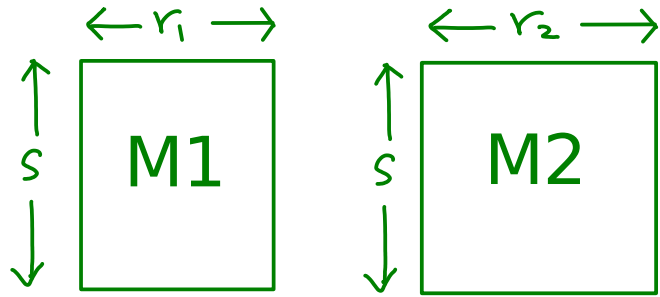
$$= (U_2^T U_1^* \otimes I) \sum_{i,j} \alpha_{ij} |i\rangle |j\rangle$$

$$= (U_2^T U_1^* \otimes I) |\Psi_1\rangle$$





For the extension  $\dim(R1)=r1$ ,  $\dim(R2)=r2$ ,  $r1 \leq r2$ :



$$\rho = \sum_{k=1}^{r_1(p)} \lambda_k |e_k\rangle\langle e_k| = M_1 M_1^\dagger = M_2 M_2^\dagger.$$

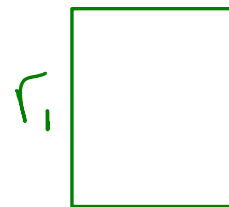
Singular value decomp (SVD) :  $M = \sqrt{M M^\dagger} V$  ( $V$  unitary)

$$M_1 = \sum_{k=1}^{r_1(p)} \sqrt{\lambda_k} |e_k\rangle\langle f_k| = \sqrt{\rho} U_1, \text{ where } U_1 = \sum_k |e_k\rangle\langle f_k|$$

$$U_1 U_1^\dagger = I_s$$

$$M_2 = \sum_{k=1}^{r_2(p)} \sqrt{\lambda_k} |e_k\rangle\langle g_k| = \sqrt{\rho} U_2, \text{ where } U_2 = \sum_k |e_k\rangle\langle g_k|$$

$$= \sqrt{\rho} U_1 U_1^\dagger U_2 = M_1 \underbrace{U_1^\dagger U_2}_{V_2}$$



Rest of proof  
as before.

A purification is a pure state on 2 systems.

Returning to topic03-02 briefly ...

On the 3rd representation of bipartite states,  
the Schmidt decomposition.

Assigned as reading exercise for W25?

### 3 ways to write down a pure state on 2 systems A & B:

1. Take any basis  $\{|e_i\rangle\}$  for A, and basis  $\{|f_j\rangle\}$  for B.

$$|\Psi\rangle = \sum_{i,j} \alpha_{ij} |e_i\rangle |f_j\rangle \text{ for unique } \alpha_{ij}, \sum_{i,j} |\alpha_{ij}|^2 = 1.$$

2. Take any basis  $\{|e_i\rangle\}$  for A, and basis  $\{|f_j\rangle\}$  for B.

$$\begin{aligned} |\Psi\rangle &= \sum_{i,j} \alpha_{ij} |e_i\rangle |f_j\rangle = \sum_i |e_i\rangle \sum_j \alpha_{ij} |f_j\rangle \\ &= \sum_i c_i |e_i\rangle |u_i\rangle \end{aligned}$$

where  $c_i = \sqrt{\sum_j |\alpha_{ij}|^2}$ ,  $|u_i\rangle = \frac{1}{c_i} \sum_j \alpha_{ij} |f_j\rangle$  unit vectors, not necessarily ortho

Similarly with AB interchanged.

### 3. The Schmidt decomposition (singular value decomp)

KLM A7  
NC 2.5

Starting from  $|\psi\rangle = \sum_{i,j} \alpha_{ij} |e_i\rangle |f_j\rangle$

Define matrix  $M$  with  $(i,j)$ -entry being  $\alpha_{ij}$ .

From the singular value decomposition  $M = UDV$  where  $D$  is diagonal with non-negative entries, and

$U, V$  are unitary. So,  $\alpha_{ij} = \sum_{k,l} U_{ik} D_{kl} V_{lj}$ . Thus

$$|\psi\rangle = \sum_{i,j} \alpha_{ij} |e_i\rangle |f_j\rangle = \sum_{i,j} \sum_{k,l} U_{ik} D_{kl} V_{lj} |e_i\rangle |f_j\rangle$$

$$= \sum_k D_{kk} \underbrace{\sum_i U_{ik} |e_i\rangle}_{|a_k\rangle} \underbrace{\sum_j V_{kj} |f_j\rangle}_{|b_k\rangle} = \sum_k D_{kk} |a_k\rangle |b_k\rangle$$

D diagonal, so,  $l = k$ . no cross terms!

Ex: check that  $|a_k\rangle$ 's ( $|b_k\rangle$ 's) orthonormal, by unitarity of  $U$  ( $V$ ).

NB The Schmidt decomposition is like the 2nd representation but the expression is in terms of a basis for A and also a basis for B! We pay a price -- in the 2nd representation, we can choose any basis for A, here we do not get to choose either basis.

NB The singular values of  $M$ ,  $D_{kk}$ , are called the Schmidt coefficients of  $|\psi\rangle$ . The rank of  $M$ , which is the number of terms in the Schmidt decomposition, is called the Schmidt rank. The bases  $\{|a_k\rangle\}$ ,  $\{|b_k\rangle\}$  are called the Schmidt bases of  $|\psi\rangle$ .

Exercise: show that the Schmidt coefficients are invariant under local unitaries acting on A and B.

They characterize the entanglement of  $|\psi\rangle$ .

Example:

$$|4\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} |00\rangle + \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} |11\rangle$$

is already in a Schmidt decomposition.

Example:  $d_A = 2, d_B = 3$

$$|4\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{91}} (|00\rangle + 2|01\rangle + 3|02\rangle + 4|10\rangle + 5|11\rangle + 6|12\rangle)$$

$$M = \frac{1}{\sqrt{91}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

Singular decomposition of  $M = \begin{matrix} \overleftarrow{2} \rightarrow & \overleftarrow{3} \rightarrow & \overrightarrow{\quad} & \overleftarrow{3} \rightarrow \\ \left[ \begin{array}{c} \phantom{0} \\ \phantom{0} \end{array} \right] & \left[ \begin{array}{c|c} \phantom{0} & \phantom{0} \\ \phantom{0} & \phantom{0} \end{array} \right] & \left[ \begin{array}{c} \phantom{0} \\ \phantom{0} \\ \phantom{0} \end{array} \right] \\ U & D & V \end{matrix}$

$$M^+ M = V^+ D^+ D V$$

Performing a spectral decomposition:

$$M^+ M = \frac{1}{91} \begin{bmatrix} 17 & 22 & 27 \\ 22 & 29 & 36 \\ 27 & 36 & 45 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 0.43 & 0.81 & -0.41 \\ 0.57 & 0.11 & 0.82 \\ 0.70 & -0.58 & -0.41 \end{bmatrix} \underbrace{\frac{1}{91} \begin{bmatrix} 90.40 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.60 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{D^+ D} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 0.43 & 0.57 & 0.70 \\ 0.81 & 0.11 & -0.58 \\ -0.41 & 0.82 & -0.41 \end{bmatrix}}_V$$

$$MM^{\dagger} = U D D^{\dagger} U^{\dagger}$$

Performing a spectral decomposition:

$$MM^{\dagger} = \frac{1}{91} \begin{bmatrix} 14 & 32 \\ 32 & 77 \end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 0.37 & -0.92 \\ 0.92 & 0.37 \end{bmatrix}}_U \underbrace{\frac{1}{91} \begin{bmatrix} 90.40 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.60 \end{bmatrix}}_{DD^{\dagger}} \begin{bmatrix} 0.37 & 0.92 \\ -0.92 & 0.37 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\therefore D^{\dagger}D = \frac{1}{91} \begin{bmatrix} 90.40 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.60 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad D = \frac{1}{\sqrt{91}} \begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{90.40} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \sqrt{0.60} & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\therefore M = U D V = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 0.37 & -0.92 \\ 0.92 & 0.37 \end{bmatrix}}_U \underbrace{\frac{1}{\sqrt{91}} \begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{90.40} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \sqrt{0.60} & 0 \end{bmatrix}}_D \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 0.43 & 0.57 & 0.70 \\ 0.81 & 0.11 & -0.58 \\ -0.41 & 0.82 & -0.41 \end{bmatrix}}_V$$



$$|\psi\rangle = \sum_k D_{kk} \underbrace{\sum_i U_{ik} |e_i\rangle}_{|a_k\rangle} \underbrace{\sum_j V_{kj} |f_j\rangle}_{|b_k\rangle} = \sum_k D_{kk} |a_k\rangle |b_k\rangle$$

$$D_{11} = \frac{\sqrt{90.40}}{\sqrt{91}} = 0.99671, \quad D_{22} = \frac{\sqrt{0.60}}{\sqrt{91}} = 0.08102$$

$$(K=1) \quad |a_1\rangle = U_{11} |0\rangle + U_{21} |1\rangle = 0.37 |0\rangle + 0.92 |1\rangle$$

$$(K=2) \quad |a_2\rangle = U_{12} |0\rangle + U_{22} |1\rangle = -0.92 |0\rangle + 0.37 |1\rangle$$

$$(K=1) \quad |b_1\rangle = V_{11} |0\rangle + V_{12} |1\rangle + V_{13} |2\rangle \\ = 0.43 |0\rangle + 0.57 |1\rangle + 0.70 |2\rangle$$

$$(K=2) \quad |b_2\rangle = V_{21} |0\rangle + V_{22} |1\rangle + V_{23} |2\rangle \\ = 0.81 |0\rangle + 0.11 |1\rangle - 0.58 |2\rangle$$

$$U = \begin{bmatrix} U_{11} & U_{12} \\ U_{21} & U_{22} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$V = \begin{bmatrix} V_{11} & V_{12} & V_{13} \\ V_{21} & V_{22} & V_{23} \\ V_{31} & V_{32} & V_{33} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$|\Psi\rangle = 0.99671 \left( 0.37 |0\rangle + 0.92 |1\rangle \right) \left( 0.43 |0\rangle + 0.57 |1\rangle + 0.70 |2\rangle \right) \\ + 0.08102 \left( -0.92 |0\rangle + 0.37 |1\rangle \right) \left( 0.81 |0\rangle + 0.11 |1\rangle - 0.58 |2\rangle \right)$$

End of reading exercise for Schmidt decomposition.

## Partial tracing a pure bipartite state: say, of system A

$$1. |\Psi\rangle = \sum_{ij} \alpha_{ij} |e_i\rangle |f_j\rangle$$

$$2. |\Psi\rangle = \sum_i c_i |e_i\rangle |u_i\rangle$$

$$3. |\Psi\rangle = \sum_k D_{kk} |a_k\rangle |b_k\rangle$$

Recall we can take the partial in any basis.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{From 1: } \text{tr}_A |\Psi\rangle\langle\Psi| &= \sum_k \langle e_k | \otimes I |\Psi\rangle\langle\Psi| |e_k\rangle \otimes I \\ &= \sum_k \sum_j \alpha_{kj} |f_j\rangle \langle\Psi| |e_k\rangle \otimes I \\ &= \sum_k \sum_j \alpha_{kj} |f_j\rangle \sum_{j'} \alpha_{kj'}^* \langle f_{j'}| \\ &= \sum_j \sum_{j'} \left( \sum_k \alpha_{kj} \alpha_{kj'}^* \right) |f_j\rangle \langle f_{j'}| \end{aligned}$$

matrix in  $|f_j\rangle$  basis

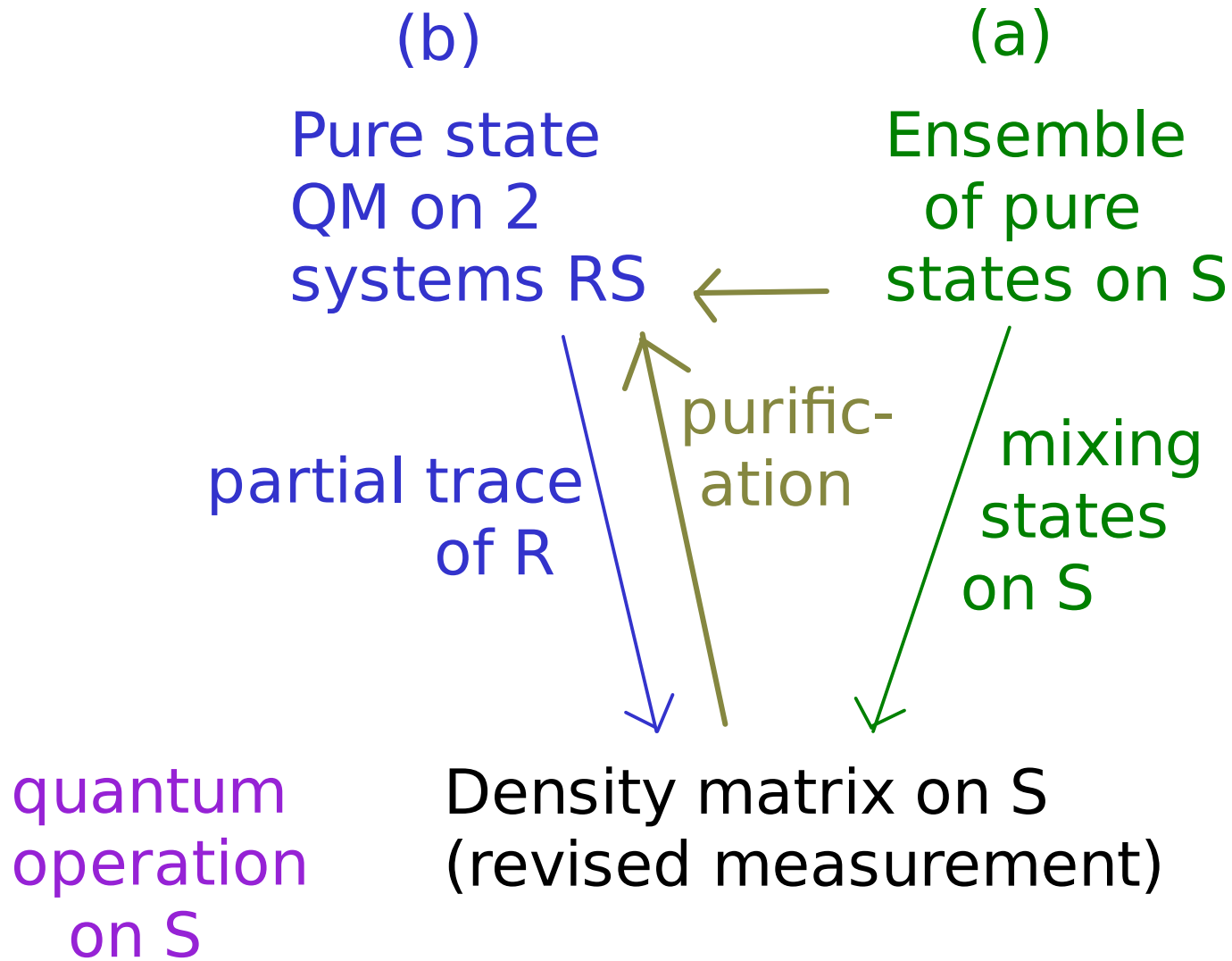
$$\begin{aligned}
\text{From 2: } \text{tr}_A |\Psi\rangle\langle\Psi| &= \sum_k \langle e_k | \otimes I |\Psi\rangle\langle\Psi| |e_k\rangle \otimes I \\
&= \sum_k C_k |u_k\rangle \langle\Psi| |e_k\rangle \otimes I \\
&= \sum_k C_k C_k^* |u_k\rangle \langle u_k|
\end{aligned}$$

convex combination of pure states  $|u_k\rangle\langle u_k|$ 's

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{From 3: } \text{tr}_A |\Psi\rangle\langle\Psi| &= \sum_i \langle a_i | \otimes I |\Psi\rangle\langle\Psi| |a_i\rangle \otimes I \\
&= \sum_i D_{ii} |b_i\rangle \langle\Psi| |a_i\rangle \otimes I \\
&= \sum_i D_{ii}^2 |b_i\rangle \langle b_i|
\end{aligned}$$

spectral decomp of  $\text{tr}_A |\Psi\rangle\langle\Psi|$   $\therefore |b_i\rangle$ 's orthonormal.

Note that all 3 answers are the same -- we obtain different expressions for the same density matrix !!



# Quantum Operations

What is the most general transformation allowed by QM?

Any reasonable transformation  $N$  should take quantum states to quantum states !

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Viewing  $N$  as a mapping from matrices to matrices:

(1)  $N$  is linear (QM is)

(2)  $N$  is trace preserving:  $\text{tr}(N(M)) = \text{tr}(M)$   
(conservation of probability when  $M = \rho$ )



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(3)  $N$  is completely positive (CP):  $M \geq 0 \Rightarrow I \otimes N(M) \geq 0$

$N$  applied to 1 out of 2 systems takes a valid initial joint state  $\rho \geq 0$  to a valid new joint state  $I \otimes N(\rho) \geq 0$ .

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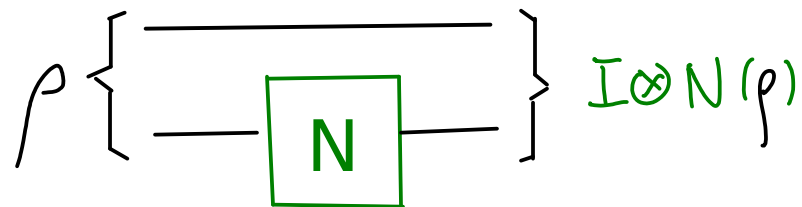
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e.g., conjugation by a unitary is CP

e.g., partial trace is CP

Definition: a quantum operation is a mapping from matrices to matrices that is (1) linear, (2) trace-preserving, and (3) completely positive.

Synonyms: quantum channel, TCP map ...

Question:

Define the transpose map as  $T(M) = M^T$ .

Is the transpose map a quantum channel?

(a) yes, (b) no

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Is the transpose map a quantum channel?

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The transpose is "positive" :  $M \geq 0$  implies  $T(M) \geq 0$ ,  
but not completely positive. Let  $|\Phi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|00\rangle + |11\rangle)$ ,

$$|\Phi\rangle\langle\Phi| = \frac{1}{2} (|00\rangle\langle 00| + |11\rangle\langle 11| + |00\rangle\langle 11| + |11\rangle\langle 00|)$$

$$\mathbb{I} \otimes T(|\Phi\rangle\langle\Phi|) = \frac{1}{2} (|00\rangle\langle 00| + |11\rangle\langle 11| + |01\rangle\langle 10| + |10\rangle\langle 01|)$$

$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|01\rangle - |10\rangle)$  : eigenvector with negative eigenvalue.

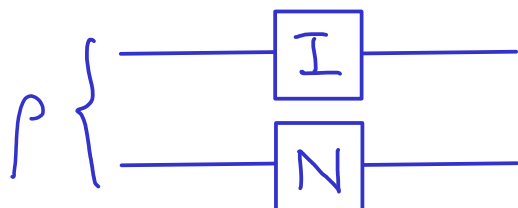
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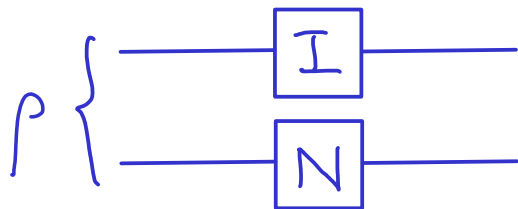




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On a tensor product input,  $\mathcal{I} \otimes \mathcal{N}(\rho \otimes \xi) = \rho \otimes \mathcal{N}(\xi)$ .

Then, linearity allows the most general  $\mathcal{I} \otimes \mathcal{N}(\rho)$  to be computed.

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Implied from the definition:

1. Composition of two quantum ops is a quantum op.  
(All 3 properties are preserved by composition.)
2. Tensor product of two quantum ops (applied to two disjoint systems) is a quantum op.

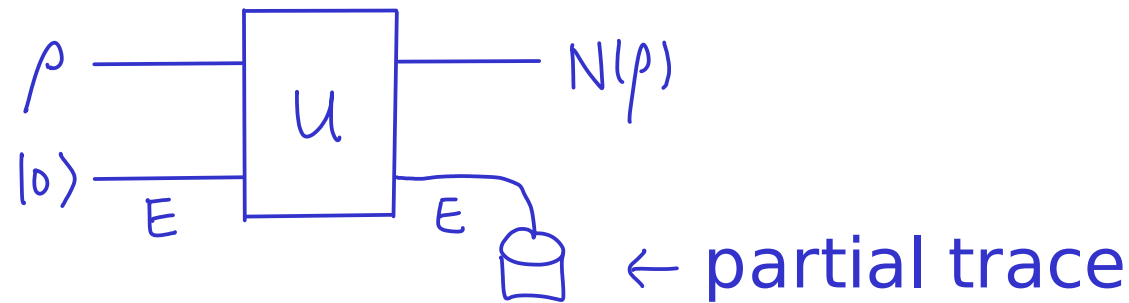
Example 1: Conjugation by unitary  $N(\rho) = U \rho U^\dagger$

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Example 3:  $N(\rho) = \text{Tr}_E (U \rho \otimes |0\rangle\langle 0|_E U^\dagger)$  is a quantum operation for any system E and any U.

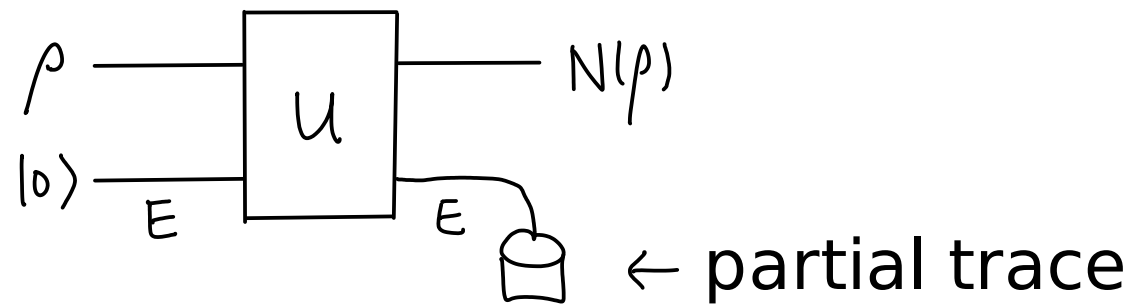


Proof: by examples 1-2 and composition.

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Proof: by examples 1-2 and composition.

Extensions: E can start in any other density matrix uncorrelated with  $\rho$ , and partial trace can be taken over a system  $E'$  of any size.

**Surprise: this makes up all quantum operations!**

Theorem: any quantum operation  $N$  from system  $A$  to system  $B$  can be represented as  $N(\rho) = \text{tr}_E (U \rho U^\dagger)$  for some system  $E$  and some Stinespring dilation  $U$ .

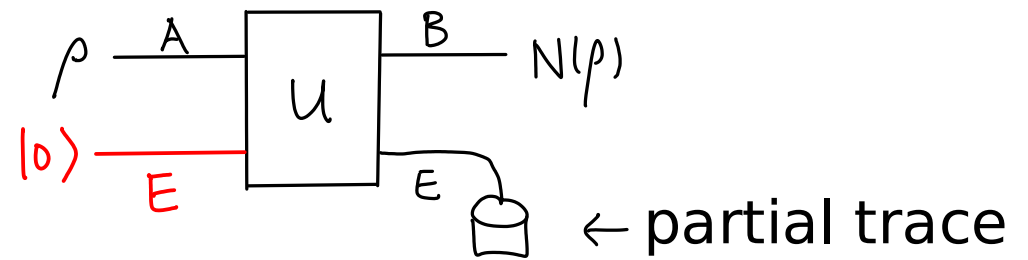
Proof: out of syllabus. For the interested, here's a write-up you already have the background to read:

[arxiv.org/abs/quant-ph/0201119](https://arxiv.org/abs/quant-ph/0201119)

# Representations of quantum operations:

## ✓ 1. Unitary representation

$$N(\rho) = \text{Tr}_E (U \rho U^\dagger)$$



can skip

$U$  is then an isometry.

$U$  is called the Stinespring dilation for  $N$ .



## Example: amplitude damping channel

We can define  $U$  by its action on a pure qubit state:

$$U(a|0\rangle + b|1\rangle)_A = a|00\rangle_{EB} + b(\sqrt{1-\gamma}|01\rangle + \sqrt{\gamma}|10\rangle)_{EB}$$

the excitation is transferred from  $A$  to  $E$

NB  $A, B, E$  all 2-dim.

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$$U = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \sqrt{1-\gamma} \\ 0 & \sqrt{\gamma} \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

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the excitation is transferred from A to E

NB A, B, E all 2-dim.

On a general density matrix  $\rho = \begin{bmatrix} c & d \\ e & f \end{bmatrix}$ ,

$$U \rho U^\dagger = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \sqrt{1-\gamma} \\ 0 & \sqrt{\gamma} \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c & d \\ e & f \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \sqrt{1-\gamma} & \sqrt{\gamma} & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} c & \sqrt{1-\gamma}d & \sqrt{\gamma}d & 0 \\ \sqrt{1-\gamma}e & (1-\gamma)f & \sqrt{\gamma}\sqrt{1-\gamma}f & 0 \\ \sqrt{\gamma}e & \sqrt{\gamma}\sqrt{1-\gamma}f & \gamma f & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{tr}_E U \rho U^\dagger = \text{tr}_E \begin{pmatrix} c & \sqrt{r}d & \sqrt{r}d & 0 \\ \sqrt{r}e & (r)f & \sqrt{r}\sqrt{r}f & 0 \\ \sqrt{r}e & \sqrt{r}\sqrt{r}f & rf & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} c & \sqrt{r}d \\ \sqrt{r}e & (r)f \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} rf & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} c + rf & \sqrt{r}d \\ \sqrt{r}e & (r)f \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{tr}_E U \rho U^\dagger &= \text{tr}_E \begin{pmatrix} c & \sqrt{\gamma} d & \sqrt{\gamma} d & 0 \\ \sqrt{\gamma} e & (1-\gamma)f & \sqrt{\gamma} \sqrt{\gamma} f & 0 \\ \sqrt{\gamma} e & \sqrt{\gamma} \sqrt{\gamma} f & \gamma f & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \\
&= \begin{pmatrix} c & \sqrt{\gamma} d \\ \sqrt{\gamma} e & (1-\gamma)f \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \gamma f & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \\
&= \begin{pmatrix} c + \gamma f & \sqrt{\gamma} d \\ \sqrt{\gamma} e & (1-\gamma)f \end{pmatrix}
\end{aligned}$$

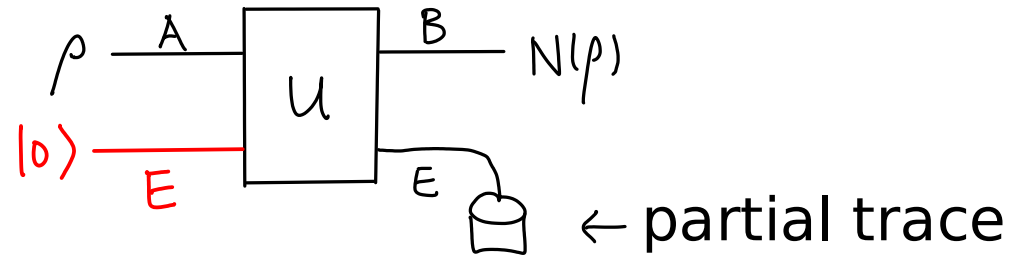
So, the channel takes  $\rho = \begin{bmatrix} c & d \\ e & f \end{bmatrix}$  to  $\begin{bmatrix} c + \gamma f & \sqrt{\gamma} d \\ \sqrt{\gamma} e & (1-\gamma)f \end{bmatrix}$

A fraction  $\gamma$  of the (1,1) entry is moved to the (0,0) entry, and the off diagonal terms are diminished.

# Representations of quantum operations:

## ✓ 1. Unitary representation

$$N(\rho) = \text{tr}_E (U \rho U^\dagger)$$



can skip

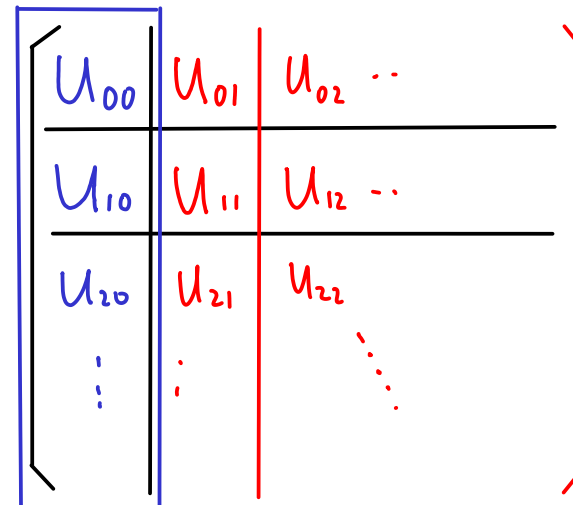
$U$  is then an isometry.

$U$  is called the Stinespring dilation for  $N$ .

What is  $N(\rho)$  in terms of  $U$ ?

Let  $U = \sum_{j=0}^{d_E-1} \sum_{k=0}^{d_E-1} |j\rangle\langle k|_E \otimes U_{jk} =$

$E$ : 1st register.



can skip

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**E: 1st register.**

|          |          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| $U_{00}$ | $U_{01}$ | $U_{02}$ | $\dots$  |
| $U_{10}$ | $U_{11}$ | $U_{12}$ | $\dots$  |
| $U_{20}$ | $U_{21}$ | $U_{22}$ | $\dots$  |
| $\vdots$ | $\vdots$ | $\vdots$ | $\ddots$ |

$$N(\rho) = \text{tr}_E (U \rho \otimes |0\rangle\langle 0|_E U^\dagger)$$

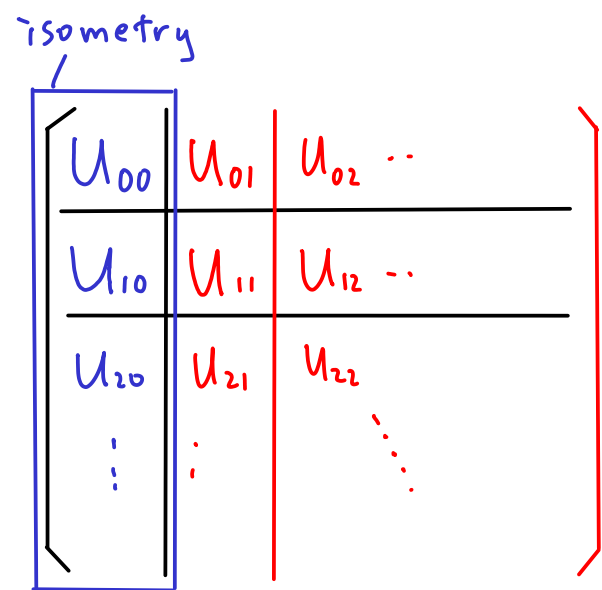
$$= \text{tr}_E \left( \sum_{j=0}^{d_E-1} \sum_{k=0}^{d_E-1} |j\rangle\langle k|_E \otimes U_{jk} \right) \left( |0\rangle\langle 0|_E \otimes \rho \right) \left( \sum_{j'=0}^{d_E-1} \sum_{k'=0}^{d_E-1} |k'\rangle\langle j'|_E \otimes U_{j'k'}^\dagger \right)$$



What is  $N(\rho)$  in terms of  $U$ ?

Let  $U = \sum_{j=0}^{d_E-1} \sum_{k=0}^{d_E-1} |j\rangle\langle k|_E \otimes U_{jk} =$

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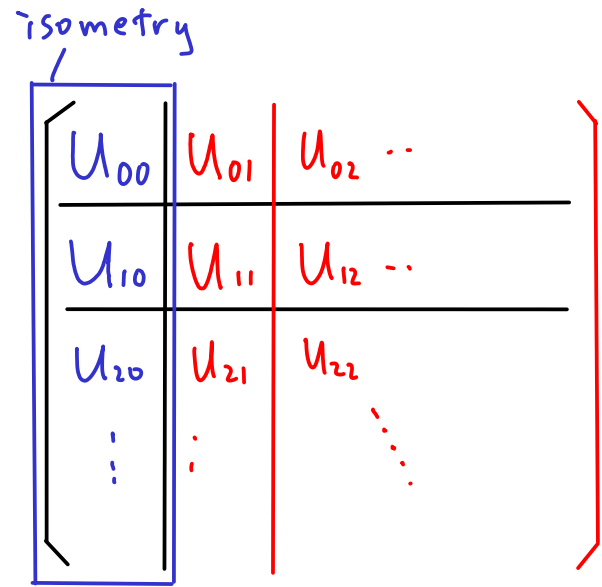
$$= \text{tr}_E \left( \underbrace{\sum_{j=0}^{d_E-1} |j\rangle\langle j|_E \otimes U_{j0}}_{\text{isometry}} \right) \left( \begin{array}{c} 1 \otimes \\ \uparrow \\ 1\text{-dim} \end{array} \rho \right) \left( \sum_{j'=0}^{d_E-1} \langle j'|_E \otimes U_{j'0}^\dagger \right)$$

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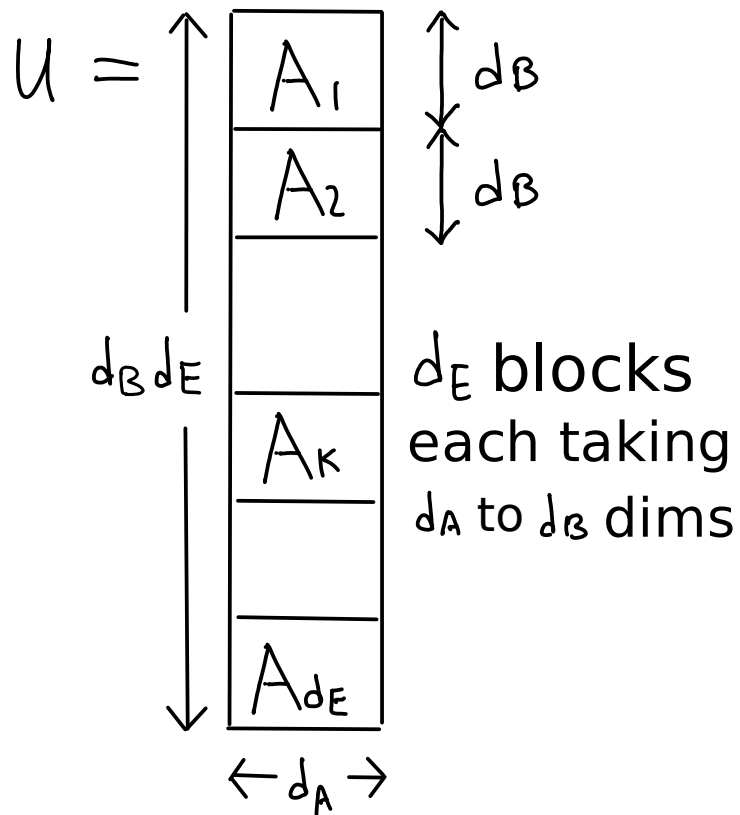
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$$= \sum_{j=0}^{d_E-1} U_{j0} \rho U_{j0}^\dagger \quad \text{mixture of states } \frac{U_{j0} \rho U_{j0}^\dagger}{\text{tr } U_{j0}^\dagger U_{j0} \rho}$$

not necessarily unitary

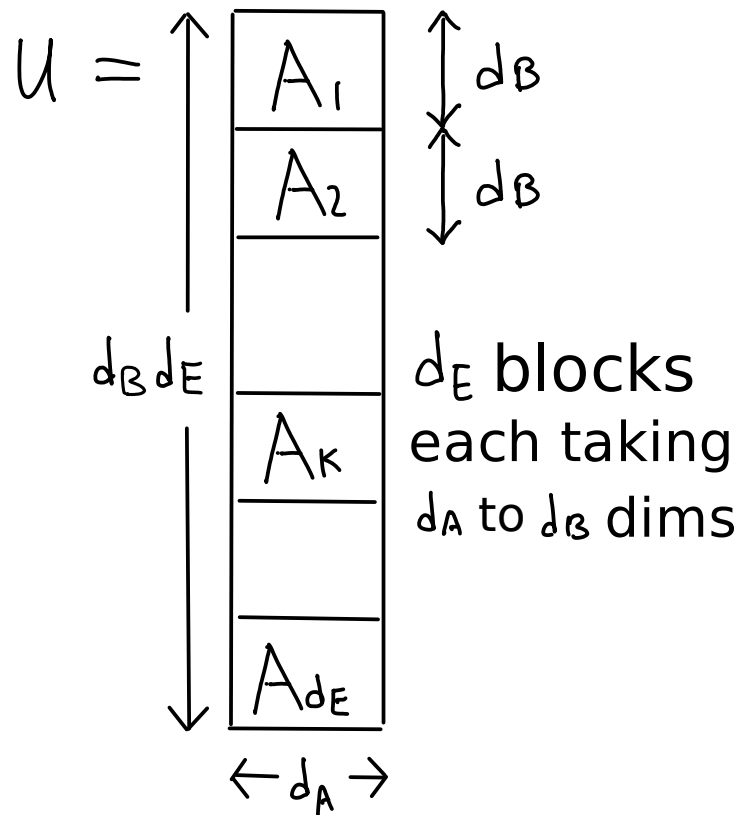
More generally, let  $U$  be an isometry taking system  $A$  to system  $BE$  (dims of  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $E$  are arbitrary).



$$U = \sum_{k=1}^{d_E} |k\rangle_E \otimes A_k$$

Stinespring dilation,  
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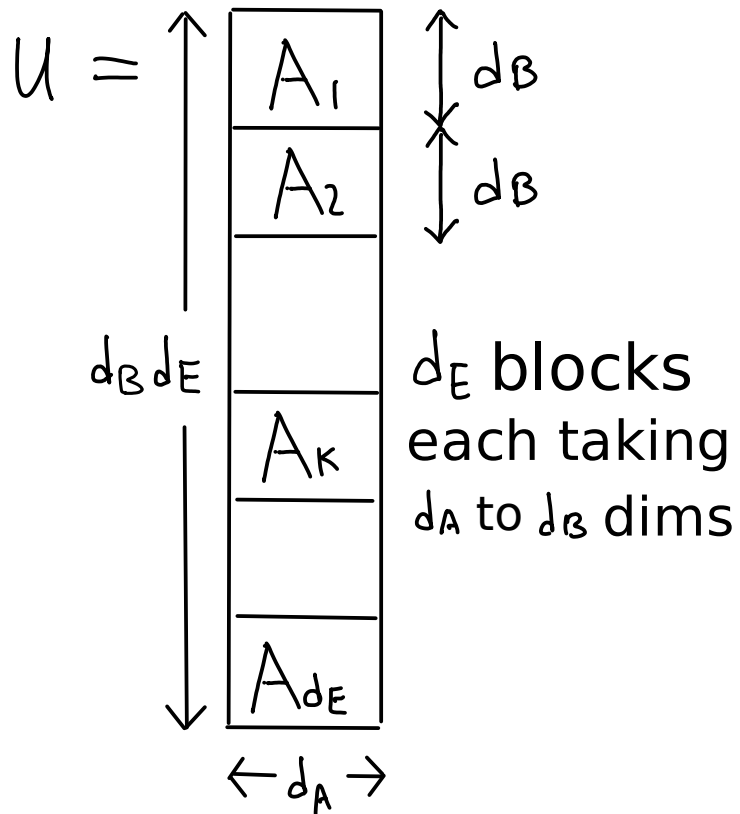
Kraus representation of  $N$   
 $A_k$ 's : Kraus operators

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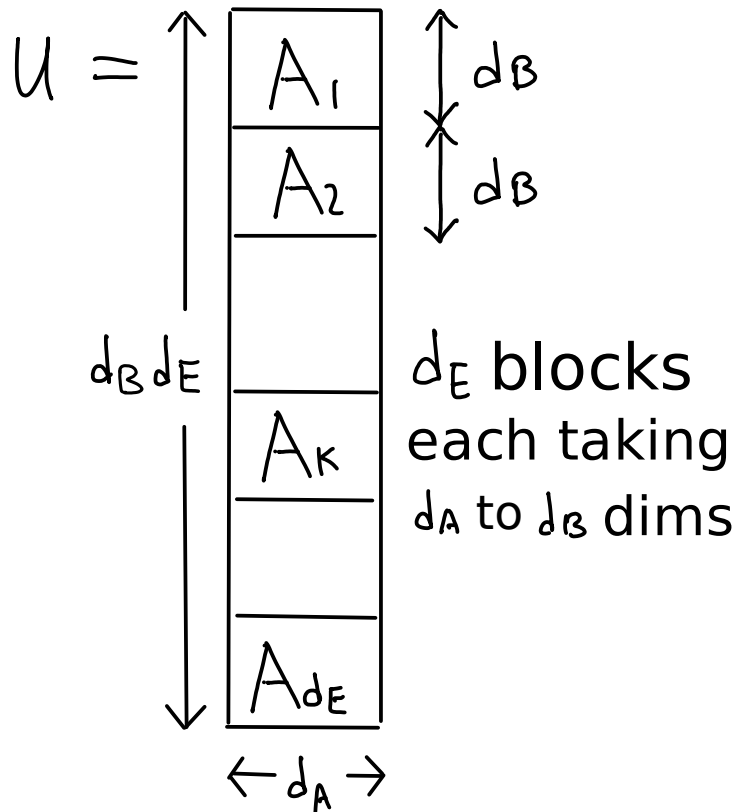
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Kraus representation of  $N$   
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\*  $U$  isometry  $\Leftrightarrow U^\dagger U = I_A$

$$\Leftrightarrow \sum_{k=1}^{d_E} A_k^\dagger A_k = I_A$$

$\Leftrightarrow N$  trace preserving

$$U = \sum_{k=1}^{d_E} |k\rangle_E \otimes A_k$$

Stinespring dilation,  
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## Example: amplitude damping channel

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \sqrt{1-\gamma} \\ \hline 0 & \sqrt{\gamma} \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$A_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \sqrt{1-\gamma} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \sqrt{\gamma} \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$N(\rho) = A_0 \rho A_0^\dagger + A_1 \rho A_1^\dagger$$

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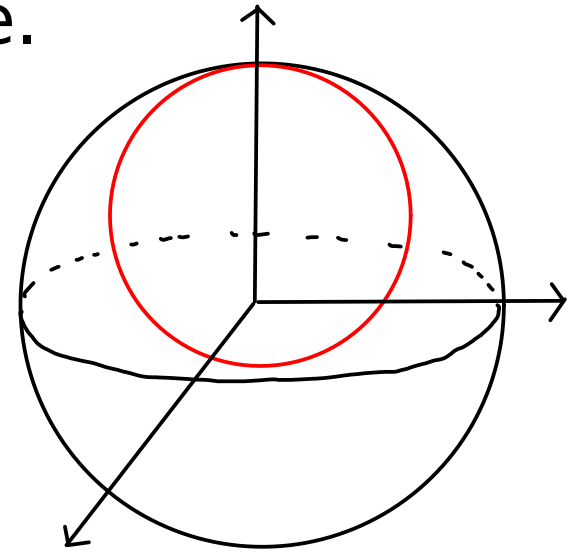
Interpretation:  $|0\rangle$  : ground state

$|1\rangle$  : excited state

$A_1$  : de-excitation (with prob  $\gamma$ )

$A_0$  : no de-excitation, but diminished amplitude for  $|1\rangle$

Exercise: evaluate  $N(\frac{1}{2}I + aX + bY + cZ)$  and find how  $N$  transform the Bloch sphere.

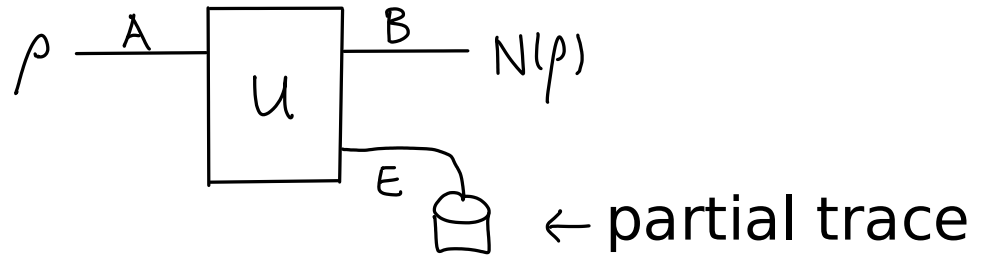


The ground state  $|0\rangle\langle 0|$  is a fixed point of  $N$ .  
 $N$  is not unital (taking the identity matrix to itself).

## Representations of quantum operations:

✓ 1. Unitary representation

$$N(\rho) = \text{tr}_E (U \rho U^\dagger)$$

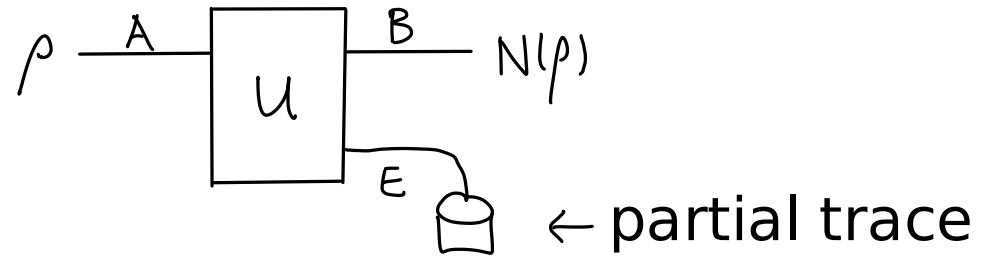


✓ 2a. Kraus rep:  $N(\rho) = \sum_{K=1}^{d_E} A_K \rho A_K^\dagger$ ,  $\sum_{K=1}^{d_E} A_K^\dagger A_K = I_A$

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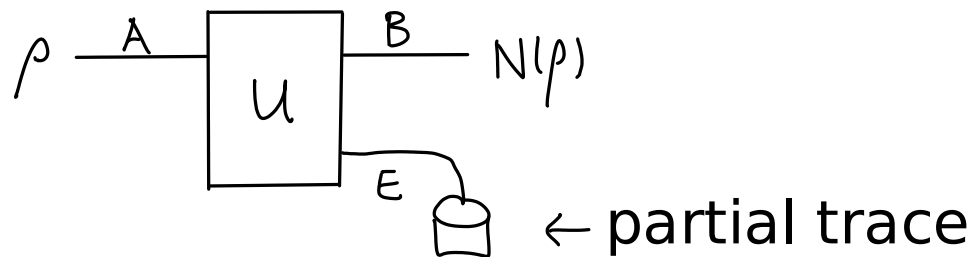
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2b. Conversely, given  $d_E$  operators  $A_K$  mapping from system A to B satisfying  $\sum_{K=1}^{d_E} A_K^\dagger A_K = I_A$ ,  $U = \sum_{K=1}^{d_E} |K\rangle_E \otimes A_K$  is an isometry, and  $\text{tr}_E (U \rho U^\dagger) = \sum_{K=1}^{d_E} A_K \rho A_K^\dagger$ .

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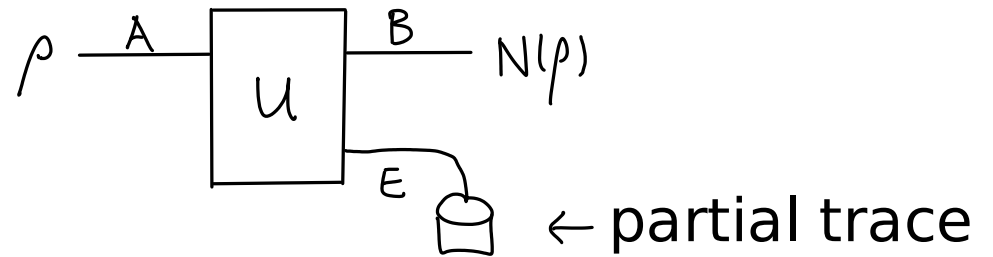
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3.  $N(\rho)$  as an explicit function of  $\rho$  e.g.  $\begin{bmatrix} c & d \\ e & f \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} c + \sqrt{f} & \sqrt{f} d \\ \sqrt{f} e & (f) f \end{bmatrix}$

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4. Choi matrix (see [arxiv.org/abs/quant-ph/0201119](https://arxiv.org/abs/quant-ph/0201119))

Example: qubit depolarizing channel w/ noise rate  $p$

$$A = B = \mathbb{C}^2. \quad N_p(\rho) = (1-p)\rho + p \frac{I}{2} \text{tr}(\rho).$$

Specified as a linear map, we do not know upfront if the map is a quantum operation. We will derive a Kraus representation which verifies that  $N_p$  is a q op.

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Let  $R(\rho) = \text{tr}(\rho) \frac{I}{2}$ , the randomization map ( $p=1$ ).

Claim:  $R(\rho) = \frac{1}{4}(\rho + X\rho X + Y\rho Y + Z\rho Z)$ . (Kraus rep)



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NB  $R$  can be interpreted as an evolution in which one of the unitaries  $I, X, Y, Z$  are picked at random and applied to the input.

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$$A = B = \mathbb{C}^2. \quad N_p(\rho) = (1-p)\rho + p \frac{I}{2} \text{tr}(\rho).$$

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**Lemma:**  $R(\rho) = \frac{1}{4}(\rho + X\rho X + Y\rho Y + Z\rho Z)$ . (Kraus rep)

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore N(\rho) &= (1-p)\rho + p \frac{I}{2} \text{tr}(\rho) \\ &= (1-p)\rho + p \frac{1}{4}(\rho + X\rho X + Y\rho Y + Z\rho Z) \\ &= \left(1 - \frac{3p}{4}\right)\rho + \frac{p}{4}X\rho X + \frac{p}{4}Y\rho Y + \frac{p}{4}Z\rho Z \quad (\text{Kraus rep}) \end{aligned}$$

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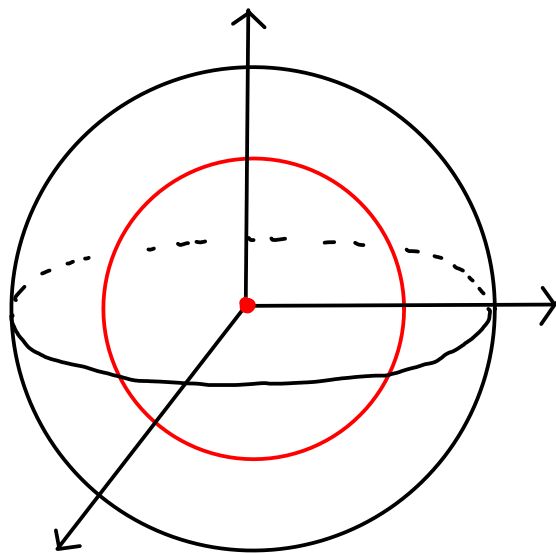
**NB** The qubit depolarizing channel w/ noise rate  $p$  can be interpreted as a noise process in which  $X$ ,  $Y$ , and  $Z$  each happens with prob  $p/4$ , and  $I$  happens otherwise.

For a qubit density matrix  $\rho = \frac{1}{2}(\mathbb{I} + aX + bY + cZ)$

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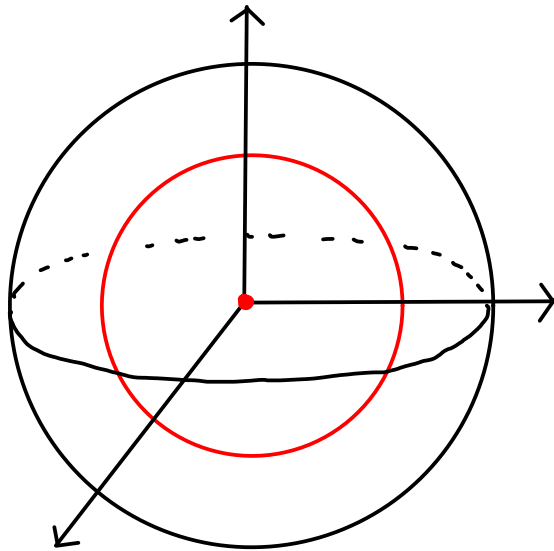


The depolarizing channel shrinks the Bloch vector by a factor of  $(1-p)$ .

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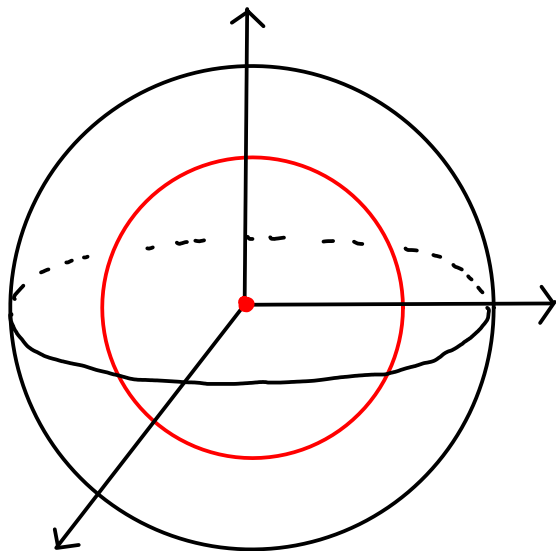
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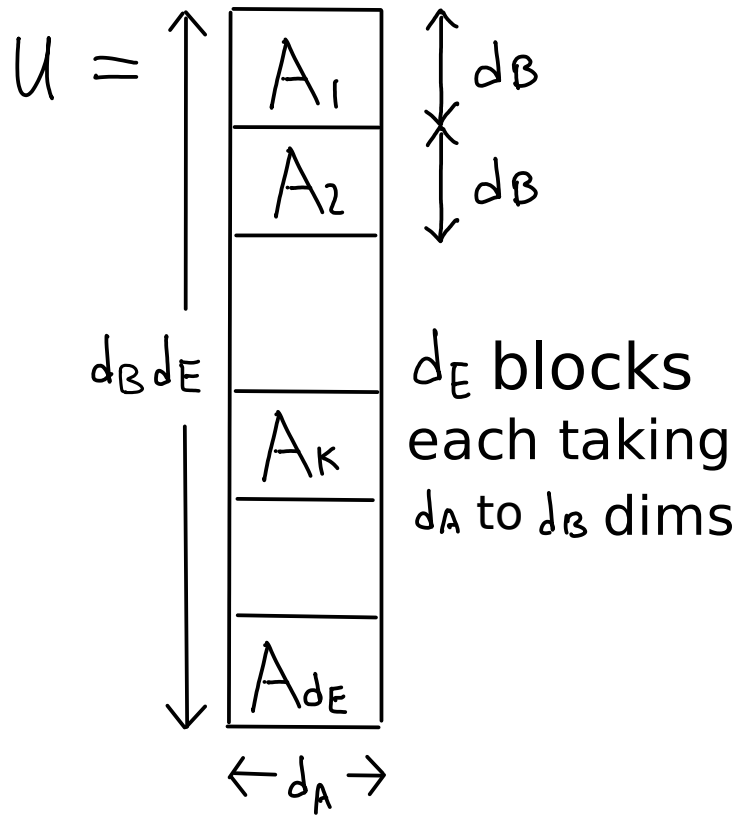


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Unlike the amplitude damping channel, the depolarizing channel is unital and maps  $\mathbb{I}$  to  $\mathbb{I}$ .

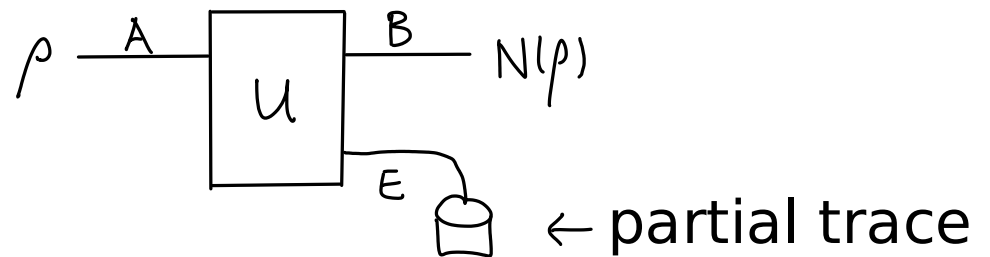
# Degree of freedom in the Kraus operators:



$$U = \sum_{K=1}^{d_E} |K\rangle_E \otimes A_K$$

$$A_K = (\langle K|_E \otimes I) U$$

$$N(\rho) = \text{tr}_E (U \rho U^\dagger) = \sum_{K=1}^{d_E} A_K \rho A_K^\dagger$$



Question: if we apply partial trace of E in a basis different from  $\{|K\rangle\}$  do we:

- (a) get the same map N, same Kraus operators  $A_K$ 's.
- (b) get the same map N but different Kraus operators
- (c) get a different map ?

## A4 Q2:

Detailed study of decoherence, a quantum operation that fixes the diagonal and shrinks the off-diagonal entries.

$$D \left( \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \right) = \begin{pmatrix} a & (1-\lambda)b \\ (1-\lambda)c & d \end{pmatrix}$$

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One Kraus rep applies  $e^{i\theta Z}$ ,  $e^{-i\theta Z}$  at random.

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You will see a Stinespring dilation, and you have to find a change in the basis of the partial trace that transforms the second set of Kraus operators to the first.

## A4 Q2

In the extreme case:

$$\text{the map } \mathcal{D} \left( \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \right) = \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & d \end{pmatrix}$$

corresponds to someone measuring the qubit.

e.g., with Stinespring dilation

$$\sqrt{a}|0\rangle + \sqrt{d}|1\rangle \rightarrow (\sqrt{a}|00\rangle + \sqrt{d}|11\rangle)_{BE}$$

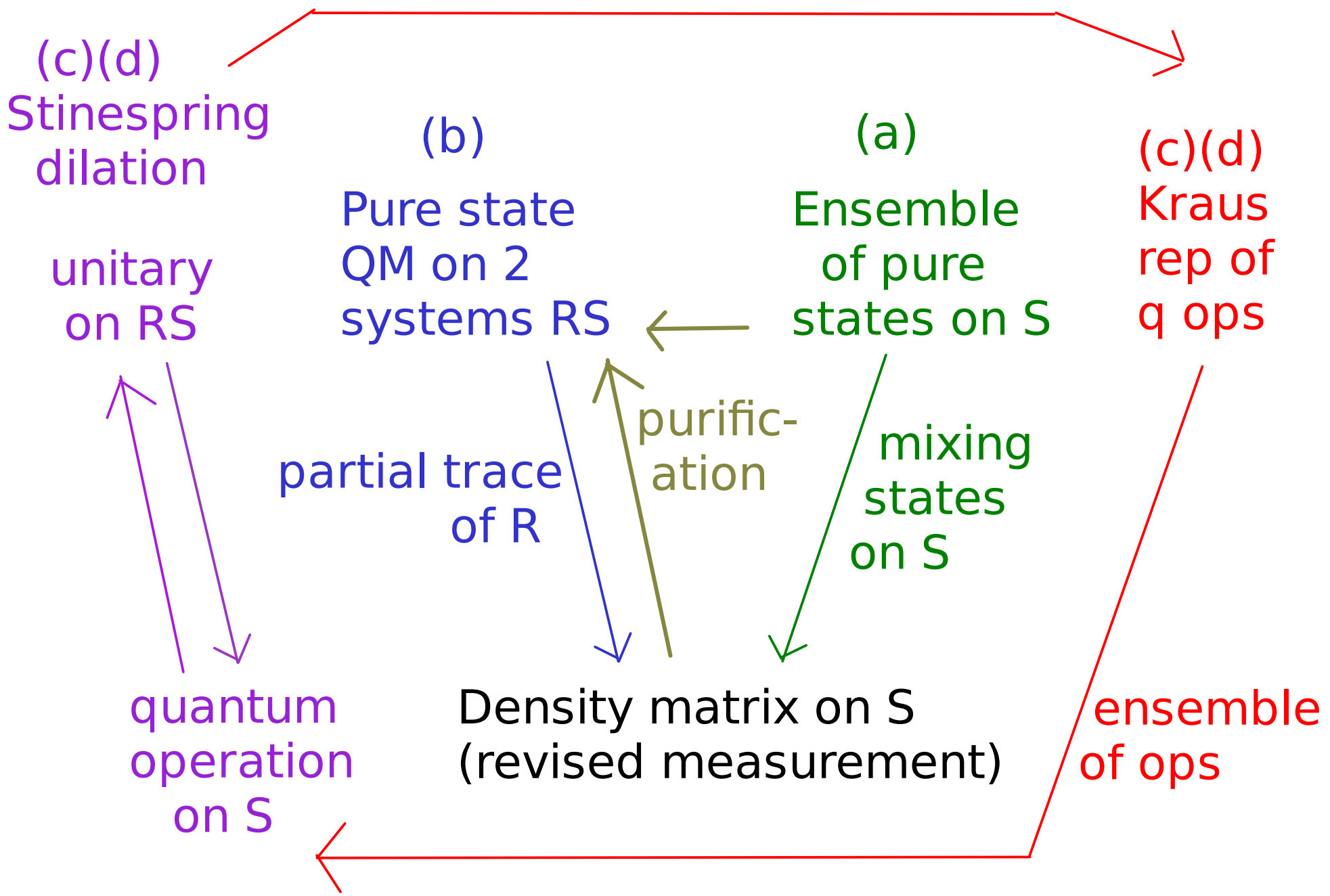
followed by partial trace of E.

Ex: check that decoherence can arise from a small probability of having the qubit measured and losing the outcome (a 3rd interpretation).

A4 Q3:

While quantum operations are not reversible in general, we characterize conditions for reversal in this question.

The question challenges your understanding of partial trace, purification, and quantum operations.





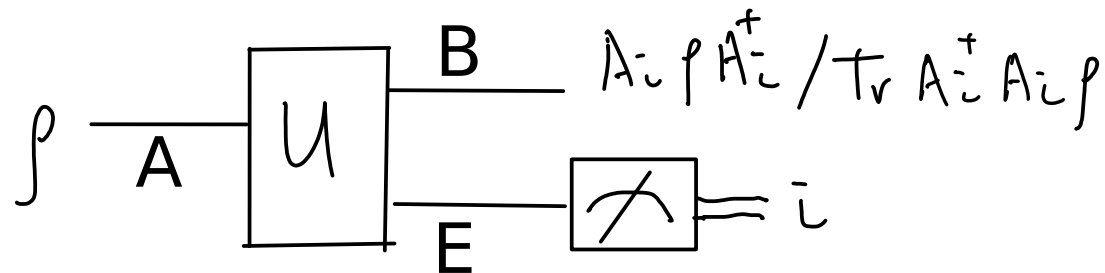
POVM measurements

Consider the following measurement on system A:

1. Apply an isometry  $U$  to system A, mapping it to systems BE.

$$U = \sum_{k=1}^{d_E} |k\rangle \otimes A_k.$$

2. Apply a complete projective measurement along the computational basis on E.



Projective measurement

$$\{P_k\}$$

$$\sum_k P_k = I$$

$$\text{Prob}(k) = \text{tr} P_k \rho$$

postmeas state

$$= \frac{P_k \rho P_k}{\text{tr} P_k \rho} = \frac{J P_k J^\dagger \rho J P_k J^\dagger}{\text{tr} P_k \rho}$$

POVM measurement

$$E_k = A_k^\dagger A_k \geq 0$$

$$\sum_k E_k = I$$

$$\text{Prob}(k) = \text{tr} E_k \rho$$

postmeas state

$$= \frac{A_k \rho A_k^\dagger}{\text{tr} E_k \rho} = \frac{J E_k J^\dagger \rho J E_k J^\dagger}{\text{tr} E_k \rho}$$

$P_k \rightarrow E_k$ , orthogonality condition on  $\{P_j\}$  lifted, and it is possible to have more outcomes than the dim.

NB POVM measurement on A is projective on BE.

## Quick recap of mixed state quantum mechanics:

**States:** Density matrices: rank 1, positive semidefinite

Interpretation / characterization :

Convex combination of rank 1 projectors

Probabilistic mixture of pure states (outer products)

**Transformations:**

Mappings  $\mathcal{N}$  from square matrices to square matrices that're linear, trace-preserving, & completely positive

Interpretations / characterizations :

1. Stinespring dilation:  $\mathcal{N}(\rho) = \text{tr}_2 U \rho U^\dagger$

Conjugate input matrix by an isometry (reversible) into matrix in 2 systems. Then, apply partial trace (irreversible) to one system.

2. Kraus representation:  $\mathcal{N}(\rho) = \sum_K A_k \rho A_k^\dagger$

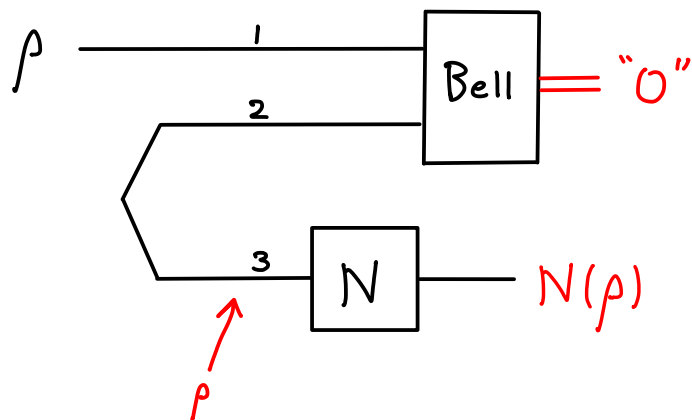
Conjugate input matrix by "Kraus operators" and sum the resulting matrices. The Kraus operators  $A_k$  need not be unitary. They satisfy:  $\sum_K A_k^\dagger A_k = I$ .

3. Choi representation:

Define the Choi matrix of  $\mathcal{N}$  as

$$J(\mathcal{N}) = I \otimes \mathcal{N}(|v\rangle\langle v|) = \sum_{\bar{l}, \bar{j}} |\bar{l}\rangle\langle \bar{j}| \otimes \mathcal{N}(|\bar{l}\rangle\langle \bar{j}|)$$

where  $|v\rangle = \sum_{\bar{l}} |\bar{l}\rangle_R |\bar{l}\rangle_A$ .



$$\mathcal{N}(\rho) = \text{tr}_{12} (|v\rangle\langle v|_{12} \otimes I_3) (\rho_1 \otimes J(\mathcal{N})_{23})$$

Ex: verify using Dirac notation

$$\mathcal{N}(\rho) = \text{tr}_2 (\rho_2^T \otimes I_3) J(\mathcal{N})_{23}.$$

## Measurements:

Measurements described by a POVM:  $\{E_k\}$

$$E_k \geq 0, \sum_k E_k = I.$$

Interpretations / characterizations :

1. Stinespring dilation:

Conjugate input matrix by an isometry (reversible) followed by a projective measurement.

2. Kraus representation:  $\mathcal{M}(\rho) = \sum_k A_k \rho A_k^\dagger \otimes |k\rangle\langle k|$

$$E_k = A_k^\dagger A_k$$

# Crucial concept: partial trace

Pure state

partial trace

Mixed state

Fixed pure state  
+  
Unitary

partial trace

Quantum  
operation

Fixed pure state  
+  
Unitary  
+  
Projective  
measurement

no  
partial trace

POVM  
measurement