

## LINEAR PRESERVER OF IDEMPOTENTS OF TENSOR PRODUCTS ON MATRIX SPACE

Huanhuan Chen<sup>1</sup>, Wenyi Wang<sup>2</sup>, Honghui Che<sup>3</sup> and Yuqiu Sheng<sup>4\*</sup>

<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>Department of Mathematics, Heilongjiang University, Harbin, P. R. China.

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### ABSTRACT

Let  $F$  be a field of characteristic not 2,  $M_n$  be the set consisting of all  $n \times n$  matrices over  $F$  and  $P_n$  be the subset of  $M_n$  consisting of all idempotent matrices. We say that a linear map  $\phi: M_m \otimes M_n \rightarrow M_r$  preserves idempotents of tensor products of matrices, if for any  $A \in M_m$  and  $B \in M_n$ ,  $\phi(A \otimes B)$  is an idempotent whenever  $A \otimes B$  is an idempotent. In this paper, we characterize linear maps  $\phi: M_2 \otimes M_2 \rightarrow M_r$ , where  $\phi$  preserves idempotents of tensor products of matrices.

**Key words:** Linear preserver, tensor product, idempotent.

### 1. INTRODUCTION AND THE MAIN THEOREM

Let  $F$  be a field of characteristic not 2,  $M_n$  be the set consisting of all  $n \times n$  matrices over  $F$  and  $P_n$  be the subset of  $M_n$  consisting of all idempotent matrices. For any  $A = (a_{ij}) \in M_m$  and  $B \in M_n$ ,  $A \otimes B$  denotes their tensor product, i.e.,  $A \otimes B = (a_{ij} B)$ .  $I$  denotes the identity matrix and  $E_{ij}$  denote the matrix whose all entries are equal to zero except for the  $(ij)$ -th entry which is equal to 1 (Note: the dimension of  $I$  and  $E_{ij}$  can be known from the content). We say that a linear map  $\phi: M_m \rightarrow M_n$  preserves idempotents, if  $\phi(A)$  is an idempotent when  $A$  is an idempotent. We say that a linear map  $\phi: M_{m_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes M_{m_l} \rightarrow M_n$  preserves idempotents of tensor products of matrices, if  $\phi(A_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes A_l)$  is an idempotent when  $A_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes A_l$  is an idempotent for any  $A_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes A_l \in M_{m_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes M_{m_l}$ . Especially, we call a linear map  $\pi: M_{m_1 \cdots m_l} \rightarrow M_{m_1 \cdots m_l}$  canonical, if  $\pi(A_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes A_l) = \tau_1(A_1) \otimes \cdots \otimes \tau_l(A_l)$ , where  $\tau_k: M_{m_k} \rightarrow M_{m_k}$  is either the identity map  $X \rightarrow X$  or the transposition map  $X \rightarrow X^t, k = 1, \dots, l$ .

This paper studied linear preserver problems on matrix spaces. In recent years, some preserver problems related tensor product were produced with some background in quantum information science. Some researchers have studied in many papers, see [1-3]. Especially, in connection to the linear preservers of idempotents, Zheng, Xu and Fošner [4] studied linear maps preserve idempotents of tensor products of matrices, they got the following theorem:

**Theorem 1.1:** Suppose  $l, n$  and  $m_1, \dots, m_l > 2$  are positive integers with  $n \leq m_1 \cdots m_l$ . A linear map  $\phi: M_{m_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes M_{m_l} \rightarrow M_n$  preserves idempotents of tensor products of matrices if and only if either  $\phi = 0$  or  $n = m_1 \cdots m_l$  and there is an invertible matrix  $Q \in M_n$  and a canonical map  $\pi$  on  $M_{m_1 \cdots m_l}$  such that  $\phi$  has the form

$$\phi(A_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes A_l) = Q\pi(A_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes A_l)Q^{-1} \quad (1)$$

for all  $A_k \in M_{m_k}, k = 1, \dots, l$ .

**\*Corresponding author: Yuqiu Sheng<sup>4\*</sup>**  
**E-mail address: shengyuqiu1973@163.com**

Obviously, the case of  $n > m_1 \cdots m_l$  is much more complex. So, we tried to study the problem in a comparatively simple case, i.e., in the case of  $l = 2$  and  $m_1 = m_2 = 2$ . we obtain that:

**Theorem 1.2:** Suppose  $n$  is a positive integer with  $n > 4$ . A linear map  $\phi: M_{m_2} \otimes M_{m_2} \rightarrow M_n$  preserves idempotents of tensor products of matrices if and only if there is an invertible matrix  $Q \in M_n$  and natural numbers  $p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4$  such that  $\phi$  has the form

$$\phi(A \otimes B) = Q(A \otimes B \otimes I_{p_1} \oplus A \otimes B^t \otimes I_{p_2} \oplus A^t \otimes B \otimes I_{p_3} \oplus A^t \otimes B^t \otimes I_{p_4} \oplus 0)Q^{-1} \quad (2)$$

for all  $A, B \in M_2$ .

## 2. PRELIMINARY RESULTS

**Lemma 2.1:** Let  $m$  and  $n$  be positive integers. A linear map  $\phi: M_m \rightarrow M_n$  preserves idempotents if and only if there exist an invertible  $Q \in M_n$  and natural numbers  $p, q$  such that  $\phi(A) = Q(A \otimes I_p \oplus A \otimes I_q)Q^{-1}$ ,  $A \in M_m$ .

In a similar way as [4], we can get the following two lemmas.

**Lemma 2.2:** If  $P \in P_2$  and  $\phi(P \otimes I_2) = 0_s \oplus I_r \oplus 0_{n-r-s}$  for some nonnegative integers  $r$  and  $s$ , then there exists a linear map  $\psi: M_2 \rightarrow M_r$  such that

$$\phi(P \otimes X) = 0_s \oplus \psi(X) \oplus 0_{n-r-s}$$

for all  $X \in M_2$ . Moreover,  $\psi$  preserves idempotents.

**Lemma 2.3:** Suppose that  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  are idempotents with  $F_1 + F_2 \in P_2$ . If  $\text{rank } \phi(F_i \otimes I_2) = r$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ , then there exist an invertible matrix  $Q \in M_n$  and linear maps  $g_i: M_2 \rightarrow M_r$  such that

$$\phi(F_i \otimes X) = Q(E_{ii} \otimes g_i(X) \oplus 0)Q^{-1}, \quad X \in M_2, \quad i = 1, 2.$$

Moreover, maps  $g_i$  preserve idempotents and  $g_i(I) = I_r$ .

**Lemma 2.4:** Suppose  $p, q, p', q'$  are natural integers,  $U \in M_r$ ,

$$r = 2(p + q) = 2(p' + q'), \quad (3)$$

and  $f(X) = X \otimes I_p \oplus X^t \otimes I_q, g(X) = X \otimes I_{p'} \oplus X^t \otimes I_{q'}, \forall X \in M_2$ . If

$$f(X)U = Ug(X), \quad \forall X \in M_2, \quad (4)$$

then  $U = I_2 \otimes U_1 \oplus I_2 \otimes U_2$ , where  $U_1 \in M_{p \times p'}, U_2 \in M_{q \times q'}$ .

Moreover, if  $U$  is invertible, then  $f(X) = g(X)$  and  $U_1, U_2$  are invertible.

**Proof:** Let  $U = [U_{ij}]_{4 \times 4}$  with  $U_{kk} \in M_{p \times p'}, k = 1, 2, U_{ll} \in M_{q \times q'}, l = 3, 4$ . Let  $X = E_{ij}$ ,  $i, j = 1, 2$ , respectively, then it follows from (4) that  $U = I_2 \otimes U_1 \oplus I_2 \otimes U_2$ ,  $U_1 \in M_{p \times p'}, U_2 \in M_{q \times q'}$ .

If  $p \neq p'$ , without loss of generality, we may suppose that  $p < p'$ , then it follows from (3) that  $q > q'$ . Thus  $r = \text{rank } U \leq 2(p + q') < 2(q + q') = r$ . It is a contradiction. So,  $p = p', q = q'$ . Thus  $f(X) = g(X)$  and  $U_1, U_2$  are invertible.

**Proof of the main theorem:** The sufficiency part of the Main Theorem is clear, we consider only the necessity part.

Let  $f : M_2 \rightarrow M_n$ ;  $A \mapsto \phi(A \otimes I)$ ,  $\forall A \in M_2$ . Then  $f$  is a linear map that maps idempotent matrices into idempotent matrices. By Lemma 2.1. we conclude that there exist an invertible  $Q \in M_n$  and  $p, q \in N$  such that

$$\phi(A \otimes I_2) = f(A) = Q(A \otimes I_p \oplus A^t \otimes I_q \oplus O)Q^{-1}, \quad A \in M_2. \quad (5)$$

Denote  $r = p + q$ . Then

$$\text{rank} \phi(E_{ij} \otimes I_2) = \text{rank} \phi((E_{ii} + \lambda E_{jj}) \otimes I_2) = r, \quad i, j = 1, 2, \quad i \neq j, \quad \forall \lambda \in F. \quad (6)$$

Composing  $\phi$  by the appropriate similarity transformation, without loss of generality, we may assume that

$$\phi(E_{ii} \otimes I_2) = E_{ii} \otimes I_r \oplus O, \quad i = 1, 2. \quad (7)$$

Thus, by Lemma 2.3 there exist linear maps  $f_i : M_2 \rightarrow M_r$  such that

$$\phi(E_{ii} \otimes X) = E_{ii} \otimes f_i(X) \oplus 0, \quad i = 1, 2, \quad (8)$$

and  $f_i$  preserve idempotents,  $i = 1, 2$ . In view of (7), using Lemma 2.1, without loss of generality, we can assume

$$f_i(X) = X \otimes I_{p_i} \oplus X^t \otimes I_{q_i}, \quad i = 1, 2. \quad (9)$$

Let  $F_1 := E_{11} + E_{12}$ ,  $F_2 := E_{22} - E_{12}$ . Then, by (6) and Lemma 2.3, there exists an invertible  $Q \in M_n$  and linear maps  $g_i : M_2 \rightarrow M_r$  such that

$$\phi(F_i \otimes X) = Q(E_{ii} \otimes g_i(X) \oplus 0)Q^{-1}, \quad (10)$$

where  $g_i$  preserve idempotents and  $g_i(I) = I_r$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ . Using Lemma 2.1, without loss of generality, we can assume

$$g_i(X) = X \otimes I_{p_i} \oplus X^t \otimes I_{q_i}, \quad i = 1, 2. \quad (11)$$

Let  $Q = [Q_{ij}]_{3 \times 3}$  with  $Q_{ij} \in M_r$ ,  $i, j = 1, 2$  and  $Q^{-1} = [T_{ij}]_{3 \times 3}$  with  $T_{ij} \in M_r$ ,  $i, j = 1, 2$ .

Since  $E_{12} \otimes X = F_1 \otimes X - E_{11} \otimes X$ , by (8) and (10) we have

$$\phi(E_{12} \otimes X) = \begin{bmatrix} Q_{11}g_1(X)T_{11} - f_1(X) & Q_{11}g_1(X)T_{12} & Q_{11}g_1(X)T_{13} \\ Q_{21}g_1(X)T_{11} & Q_{21}g_1(X)T_{12} & Q_{21}g_1(X)T_{13} \\ Q_{31}g_1(X)T_{11} & Q_{31}g_1(X)T_{12} & Q_{31}g_1(X)T_{13} \end{bmatrix} \quad (12)$$

Similarly, since  $E_{12} \otimes X = -(F_2 \otimes X - E_{22} \otimes X)$ , by (8) and (10) we have

$$\phi(E_{12} \otimes X) = \begin{bmatrix} -Q_{12}g_2(X)T_{21} & -Q_{12}g_2(X)T_{22} & -Q_{12}g_2(X)T_{23} \\ -Q_{22}g_2(X)T_{21} & f_2(X) - Q_{22}g_2(X)T_{22} & -Q_{22}g_2(X)T_{23} \\ -Q_{32}g_2(X)T_{21} & -Q_{32}g_2(X)T_{22} & -Q_{32}g_2(X)T_{23} \end{bmatrix} \quad (13)$$

For any idempotent  $P \in P_2$  and any scalar  $\lambda \in F$ ,  $(E_{ii} + \lambda E_{12}) \otimes P \in M_{2 \times 2}$  is an idempotent,  $i = 1, 2$ . Then,

$$\phi(E_{ii} \otimes P) + \lambda \phi(E_{12} \otimes P) \in M_n, \quad i = 1, 2.$$

Thus

$$\phi(E_{ii} \otimes P)\phi(E_{12} \otimes P) + \phi(E_{12} \otimes P)\phi(E_{ii} \otimes P) = \phi(E_{12} \otimes P), \quad i = 1, 2 \quad (14)$$

and

$$[\phi(E_{12} \otimes P)]^2 = 0. \quad (15)$$

Using (8), (12)-(15), we obtain

$$\begin{cases} Q_{11}g_1(P)T_{11} = f_1(P), Q_{22}g_2(P)T_{22} = f_2(P) \\ Q_{21}g_1(P)T_{12} = 0, Q_{21}g_1(P)T_{13} = 0 \\ Q_{31}g_1(P)T_{12} = 0, Q_{31}g_1(P)T_{23} = 0 \\ -Q_{12}g_2(P)T_{21} = 0, -Q_{12}g_2(P)T_{23} = 0 \\ -Q_{32}g_2(P)T_{21} = 0, -Q_{32}g_2(P)T_{23} = 0 \end{cases}$$

Since any matrix of  $M_2$  can be written as a linear combination of idempotents, we get

$$\begin{cases} Q_{11}g_1(X)T_{11} = f_1(X), Q_{22}g_2(X)T_{22} = f_2(X) \\ Q_{21}g_1(X)T_{12} = 0, Q_{21}g_1(X)T_{13} = 0 \\ Q_{31}g_1(X)T_{12} = 0, -Q_{31}g_1(X)T_{13} = 0 \\ -Q_{12}g_2(X)T_{21} = 0, -Q_{12}g_2(X)T_{23} = 0 \\ -Q_{32}g_2(X)T_{21} = 0, -Q_{32}g_2(X)T_{23} = 0 \end{cases} \quad (16)$$

Using (9), (11)-(16) and Lemma 2.4 we can conclude that  $f_i(X) = g_i(X), i=1, 2$  and

$$\phi(E_{12} \otimes X) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & g_1(X)U & 0 \\ Vg_1(X) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & Ug_2(X) & 0 \\ g_2(X)V & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (17)$$

where

$$U = Q_{11}T_{12} = -Q_{12}T_{22}, V = Q_{21}T_{11} = -Q_{22}T_{21}. \text{ So, by Lemma 2.4 we get} \\ U = I_2 \otimes U_1 \oplus I_2 \otimes U_2, V = I_2 \otimes V_1 \oplus I_2 \otimes V_2, \quad (18)$$

where  $U_1 \in M_{p_1 \times p_2}, U_2 \in M_{q_1 \times q_2}, V_1 \in M_{p_2 \times p_1}, V_2 \in M_{q_2 \times q_1}$ . Moreover, by (15) we can get  $U_i V_i = 0, V_i U_i = 0, i=1, 2$ . This, together with (6) we can conclude that there exist invertible matrices  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  such that

$$U_i = P_1 \begin{bmatrix} I_{r_i} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} P_2, V_i = P_2^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & I_{s_i} \end{bmatrix} P_1^{-1}, r_i + s_i \leq \min\{p_i, q_i\}, i=1,2. \quad (19)$$

In a similar way as above we can get

$$\phi(E_{21} \otimes X) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & g_1(X)U' & 0 \\ V'g_1(X) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & U'g_2(X) & 0 \\ g_2(X)V' & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (20)$$

where

$$U' = I_2 \otimes U'_1 \oplus I_2 \otimes U'_2, V' = I_2 \otimes V'_1 \oplus I_2 \otimes V'_2. \quad (21)$$

$$U'_i V'_i = 0, V'_i U'_i = 0, i=1,2. \quad (22)$$

and  $U'_1 \in M_{p_1 \times p_2}, U'_2 \in M_{q_1 \times q_2}, V'_1 \in M_{p_2 \times p_1}, V'_2 \in M_{q_2 \times q_1}$ .

For any idempotent  $P \in P_2$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}(E_{11} + E_{12} + E_{21} + E_{22}) \otimes P$  is idempotent, then  $\frac{1}{2}\phi((E_{11} + E_{12} + E_{21} + E_{22}) \otimes P)$  is idempotent. Using this fact and (8), (9), (17)-(22) we conclude that  $r_1 + s_1 = p_1 = p_2, r_2 + s_2 = q_1 = q_2$  and there exist invertible matrices  $Q_1$  and  $Q_2$  such that

$$U_i = Q_1 \begin{bmatrix} I_{r_i} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} Q_2, V_i = Q_2^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & I_{s_i} \end{bmatrix} Q_1^{-1}, i=1, 2.$$

$$U_i' = Q_1 \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & I_{s_i} \end{bmatrix} Q_2, V_i' = Q_2^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} I_{r_i} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} Q_1^{-1}, i=1, 2.$$

Thus  $g_1(X) = g_2(X)$ .

At last, composing  $\phi$  by the appropriate similarity transformation again, we obtain

$$\phi(E_{ij} \otimes X) = E_{ij} \otimes X \otimes I_{r_1} \oplus E_{ij} \otimes X^t \otimes I_{r_2} \oplus E_{ji} \otimes X \otimes I_{s_1} \oplus E_{ji} \otimes X^t \otimes I_{s_2} \oplus 0, i=1, 2.$$

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