

# Linear Maps Preserving Inverses of Tensor Products of Hermite Matrices

Shuang Yan<sup>1</sup>, Yang Zhang<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> School of Mathematics, Northeast Forestry University, Harbin, China

Correspondence: Yang Zhang, School of Mathematics, Northeast Forestry University, Harbin, 150040, China

Received: April 10, 2023 Accepted: June 27, 2023 Online Published: July 28, 2023

doi:10.5539/jmr.v15n4p75 URL: <https://doi.org/10.5539/jmr.v15n4p75>

## Abstract

Let  $C$  be a complex field,  $H_{m_1 m_2}$  be a linear space of tensor products of Hermite matrices  $H_{m_1} \otimes H_{m_2}$  over  $C$ , and suppose  $m_1, m_2 \geq 2$  are positive integers. A linear map  $f : H_{m_1 m_2} \rightarrow H_n$  is called a linear inverse preserver if  $f(X_1 \otimes X_2)^{-1} = f((X_1 \otimes X_2)^{-1})$  for arbitrary invertible matrix  $X_1 \otimes X_2 \in H_{m_1 m_2}$ . The aim of this paper is to characterize the linear maps preserving inverses of tensor products of Hermite matrices.

**Keywords:** linear preserver, inverses, tensor product

## 1. Introduction

Let  $I_n$  be the  $n \times n$  identity matrix,  $G_n$  be a set of all  $n \times n$  invertible matrices,  $P^T$  be the transpose matrix of  $P$ , and suppose  $P^*$  is the conjugate transpose matrix of  $P$ . We denote by  $M_n$  and  $H_n$  the algebra of all  $n \times n$  matrices and Hermite matrices over  $C$ , and by  $M_{m_1, \dots, m_l}$  and  $H_{m_1, \dots, m_l}$  the linear space of tensor products of matrices  $M_{m_1} \otimes \dots \otimes M_{m_l}$  and Hermite matrices  $H_{m_1} \otimes \dots \otimes H_{m_l}$ . Let  $P_n^2$  and  $P_n^3$  be subspace of  $M_n$  consisting of all idempotent and tripotent matrices.

In 2012, Li Zhiguang combined the linear preserver problems with tensor products of matrices in the context of quantum theory, which not only provided a new direction for the study of the preserver problems, but also had potential application value for the future development of quantum information science. As for the study of linear preserver problems of tensor products of matrices, referred to references (Lim, 2014; Huang, Shi & Sze, 2016; Duffner & da Cruz, 2016).

Changing the set of preserving functions is one of the basic ideas in the study of preserver problems. Zheng, Xu and Fošner in 2015 described the linear maps preserving idempotence of tensor products of matrices (Zheng, Xu & Fošner, 2015). Deng, Zheng and Xu in 2021 changed the set of the linear maps from tensor products of matrices to the tensor products of symmetric matrices (Deng, Zheng & Xu, 2021). Yan in 2022 described the linear maps preserving inverses tensor products of matrices (Yan, 2022). Based on it, this paper changes the set of linear maps from the tensor products of matrices to the tensor products of Hermite matrices.

Generally speaking, linear preservers of inverses come down to linear preservers of idempotence. Xu in 2016 described a linear map that preserves the idempotence of the tensor products of Hermite matrices (Xu, 2016), and the result is as follows: A linear map  $f : H_{m_1, \dots, m_l} \rightarrow H_n$  ( $m_1 \cdot \dots \cdot m_l \geq n$ ) is called an idempotent preserver of tensor products of matrices if and only if  $f = 0$  or there exists a unitary matrix  $P \in M_n$  and a canonical map  $\pi$  on  $H_{m_1, \dots, m_l}$  such that  $f(X) = P\pi(X)P^*$  for any  $X \in H_{m_1, \dots, m_l}$  when  $m_1 \cdot \dots \cdot m_l = n$ .

The purpose of this paper is to describe the linear maps preserving inverses of tensor products of Hermite matrices as well as the idempotent preserver of tensor products of Hermite matrices with the restriction of  $m_1 \cdot \dots \cdot m_l \geq n$  is removed compared with reference (Xu, 2016). It enriches the preservation problem in Hermite matrices space and provides a more perfect mathematical theory foundation for quantum information science.

Because of the complexity and arbitrariness of the matrices, We need to do a lot of calculations. In order to solve this problem, in the following proofs, we only consider the case of  $l = 2$ , the case of  $l > 2$  are similar. In addition, the following concepts are needed for this article: A linear map  $\pi$  on  $H_{m_1, \dots, m_l}$  is called canonical, if it satisfies

$$\pi(X_1 \otimes \dots \otimes X_l) = \tau_1(X_1) \otimes \dots \otimes \tau_l(X_l),$$

with  $\tau_i(X_i)$  ( $i = 1, \dots, l$ ) =  $X_i$  or  $X_i^T$ . A linear map is called generalized canonical, if it satisfies

$$\sigma(X_1 \otimes \dots \otimes X_l) = \left( \bigoplus_{i=1}^s \pi_i(X_1 \otimes \dots \otimes X_l) \otimes I_{p_i} \right) \oplus 0,$$

where  $\pi_i$  are the canonical maps,  $p_i (i = 1, \dots, s)$  are natural numbers, and  $I_0$  means that there is not the item which corresponds to it in direct sum.

**2. Preliminary Result**

Before proving the theorem, we need the following lemmas.

**Lemma 1** Let  $U \in M_n$  be an invertible matrix, if  $UX = XU$  for any  $X \in H_n$ , then  $U = \lambda I$  with  $\lambda \neq 0$ .

*Proof.* Take  $X = E_{ii} (i = 1, \dots, n)$ .  $UE_{ii} = E_{ii}U$  shows that  $U$  is a diagonal matrix. Then take  $X = E_{ij} + E_{ji}$  and  $X = \mathbf{i}(E_{ij} - E_{ji}) (1 \leq i < j \leq n)$ , and then we get that  $U(E_{ij} + E_{ji}) = (E_{ij} + E_{ji})U$  and  $U\mathbf{i}(E_{ij} - E_{ji}) = \mathbf{i}(E_{ij} - E_{ji})U$ . The Lemma 1 can be proved.

**Lemma 2** (Zhang&Cao, 2001) If  $A \in P_n^2$ , there exists an invertible matrix  $Q$  and a non-negative integer  $r$  such that

$$A = Q \text{diag}(I_r, 0_{n-r}) Q^{-1},$$

where  $\text{rank} A = r$ .

**Lemma 3** (Zhang&Cao, 2001) If  $A \in P_n^3$ , there exists an invertible matrix  $Q$  and non-negative integers  $p, q, s$  such that

$$A = Q \text{diag}(I_p, -I_q, 0_s) Q^{-1},$$

where  $\text{rank} A = p + q$ ,  $p = \text{rank}(A + I_n) + \text{rank}(A) - n$  and  $p + q + s = n$ .

**Lemma 4** (Sheng&Tang, 2020) Let  $F$  be a field of  $\text{Ch} \neq 2$ . A linear map  $\varphi : M_{m_1 \dots m_l}(F) \rightarrow M_n(F) (m_1 \dots m_l < n)$  preserves idempotence of tensor products of matrices if and only if there exists an invertible matrix  $Q \in M_n(F)$  and a generalized canonical map  $\sigma$  on  $M_{m_1 \dots m_l}(F)$  such that

$$\varphi(X) = Q\sigma(X)Q^{-1}, \forall X \in M_{m_1 \dots m_l}(F).$$

**Lemma 5** A linear map  $\varphi : H_{m_1 \dots m_l} \rightarrow H_n (m_1 \dots m_l < n)$  preserves idempotence of tensor products of matrices if and only if there exists a unitary matrix  $T \in M_n$  and a generalized canonical map  $\sigma$  on  $H_{m_1 \dots m_l}$  such that

$$\varphi(X) = T\sigma(X)T^*, \forall X \in H_{m_1 \dots m_l}.$$

*Proof.* First, we give the proof of the sufficiency part of the lemma: If  $X^2 = X$  for any  $X = X_1 \otimes \dots \otimes X_l \in H_{m_1 \dots m_l}$ , then

$$\varphi(X)^2 = T\sigma(X)T^*T\sigma(X)T^* = T\sigma(X)^2T^*.$$

Because

$$(X_1 \otimes \dots \otimes X_l)^2 = X_1^2 \otimes \dots \otimes X_l^2 = X_1 \otimes \dots \otimes X_l,$$

we have

$$(\pi(X_1 \otimes \dots \otimes X_l) \otimes I_{p_i})^2 = \tau_1(X_1)^2 \otimes \dots \otimes \tau_l(X_l)^2 \otimes I_{p_i}^2 = \tau_1(X_1) \otimes \dots \otimes \tau_l(X_l) \otimes I_{p_i},$$

and by the definitions of the canonical maps and generalized canonical maps, we have  $\sigma(X)^2 = \sigma(X)$ , i.e.,  $\varphi(X)^2 = \varphi(X)$ . Then the sufficiency part is established and the necessity part is proved below.

If  $\varphi = 0$ , the necessity is obvious.

If  $\varphi \neq 0$ , let  $\varphi$  be linearly extended into  $\tilde{\varphi} : M_{m_1 \dots m_l} \rightarrow M_n$ . Since  $\text{Ch} C = 0$ , applying the Lemma 4, we know that there exists an invertible matrix  $Q \in M_n$  and a generalized canonical map  $\sigma$  on  $M_{m_1 \dots m_l}$ , such that

$$\tilde{\varphi}(X) = Q\sigma(X)Q^{-1}, \forall X \in M_{m_1 \dots m_l}.$$

Since  $\tilde{\varphi}(H_{m_1 \dots m_l}) = \varphi(H_{m_1 \dots m_l}) \in H_n$ , we derive that

$$(Q\sigma(X)Q^{-1})^* = Q\sigma(X)Q^{-1}, \forall X \in H_{m_1 \dots m_l},$$

that is

$$\sigma(X)Q^*Q = Q^*Q\sigma(X), \forall X \in H_{m_1 \dots m_l}.$$

Since  $\sigma(X) \in H_n$  and  $Q^*Q \in G_n$ , we have  $Q^*Q = \lambda I$ ,  $\lambda \neq 0$  according to Lemma 1. Because  $Q$  is an invertible matrix, we get  $|Q^*Q| = |Q^*||Q| = \lambda^n$ . Suppose  $|Q^*| = a + b\mathbf{i}$ ,  $|Q| = a - b\mathbf{i}$ . Then  $\lambda > 0$ . Let  $T = \lambda^{-\frac{1}{2}}Q$ , then  $T^*T = I$ . So  $T$  is a unitary matrix, and we derive that

$$\tilde{\varphi}(X) = T\sigma(X)T^*, \forall X \in M_{m_1 \dots m_l},$$

$$\varphi(X) = T\sigma(X)T^*, \forall X \in H_{m_1 \dots m_l}.$$

Then Lemma 5 can be proved.

**Lemma 6** Assuming  $f : H_{m_1 m_2} \rightarrow H_n$  is a linear map preserving inverses of tensor products of Hermite matrices, then

$$f(I_{m_1 m_2})f(E_{ii} \otimes E_{kk}) = f(E_{ii} \otimes E_{kk})f(I_{m_1 m_2}) = f(E_{ii} \otimes E_{kk})^2,$$

where  $i \in [1, m_1]$  and  $k \in [1, m_2]$ .

*Proof.* Since  $I_{m_1 m_2}^{-1} = I_{m_1 m_2}$ , we have  $f(I_{m_1 m_2})^{-1} = f(I_{m_1 m_2})$  and  $f(I_{m_1 m_2})^2 = I_n$ . So for any  $x \neq 0, x \neq 1$

$$(I_{m_1 m_2} + (x - 1)(E_{ii} \otimes E_{kk}))^{-1} = I_{m_1 m_2} + (x^{-1} - 1)(E_{ii} \otimes E_{kk}),$$

then

$$f(I_{m_1 m_2} + (x - 1)(E_{ii} \otimes E_{kk}))f(I_{m_1 m_2} + (x^{-1} - 1)(E_{ii} \otimes E_{kk})) = I_n, \tag{1}$$

$$f(I_{m_1 m_2} + (x^{-1} - 1)(E_{ii} \otimes E_{kk}))f(I_{m_1 m_2} + (x - 1)(E_{ii} \otimes E_{kk})) = I_n, \tag{2}$$

combine equation (1) and (2)

$$(x^{-1} - 1)(f(I_{m_1 m_2})f(E_{ii} - E_{kk}) - f(E_{ii} - E_{kk})f(I_{m_1 m_2})) = 0.$$

Due to the arbitrariness of  $x$ , it follows that

$$f(I_{m_1 m_2})f(E_{ii} - E_{kk}) = f(E_{ii} - E_{kk})f(I_{m_1 m_2}), \tag{3}$$

and put (3) into equation (1) or (2)

$$(x^{-1} + x - 2)(f(I_{m_1 m_2})f(E_{ii} - E_{kk}) - f(E_{ii} - E_{kk})^2) = 0.$$

Because of the arbitrariness of  $x$ , the Lemma 6 can be proved.

**Lemma 7** Assuming  $f : H_{m_1 m_2} \rightarrow H_n$  is a linear map preserving inverses of tensor products of Hermite matrices, and let  $E_{ii} = D_i, E_{kk} = D_k, E_{ij} + E_{ji} = D_{ij}^+, E_{ij} - E_{ji} = D_{ij}^-, E_{kl} + E_{lk} = D_{kl}^+, E_{kl} - E_{lk} = D_{kl}^-$ , where  $i, j \in [1, m_1], k, l \in [1, m_2], i \neq j$  and  $k \neq l$ , then we have that

$$f(I_{m_1 m_2})f((aD_i + bD_{ij}^-) \otimes (cD_k + dD_{kl}^+)) = f((aD_i + bD_{ij}^-) \otimes (cD_k + dD_{kl}^+))f(I_{m_1 m_2}), \tag{4}$$

$$f(I_{m_1 m_2})f((aD_i + bD_{ij}^+) \otimes (cD_k + dD_{kl}^-)) = f((aD_i + bD_{ij}^+) \otimes (cD_k + dD_{kl}^-))f(I_{m_1 m_2}), \tag{5}$$

$$f(I_{m_1 m_2})f((aD_{ij}^+ + bD_{ij}^-) \otimes (cD_{kl}^+ + dD_{kl}^-)) = f((aD_{ij}^+ + bD_{ij}^-) \otimes (cD_{kl}^+ + dD_{kl}^-))f(I_{m_1 m_2}), \tag{6}$$

where  $a, b, c, d \in \{0, 1\}, a \neq b$  and  $c \neq d$ .

*Proof.* First, we give the proof of the equation (4). For any  $x \neq \pm 1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} & \left( I_{m_1 m_2} + \frac{x}{1+x} ((aD_i + bD_{ij}^-) \otimes (cD_k + dD_{kl}^+)) - \frac{x}{1+x} ((D_i + bD_j) \otimes (D_k + dD_l)) \right)^{-1} \\ &= I_{m_1 m_2} - \frac{x}{1-x} ((aD_i + bD_{ij}^-) \otimes (cD_k + dD_{kl}^+)) + \frac{x}{1-x} ((D_i + bD_j) \otimes (D_k + dD_l)), \end{aligned}$$

and suppose  $f(I_{m_1 m_2}) = A, f((aD_i + bD_{ij}^-) \otimes (cD_k + dD_{kl}^+)) = C, f((D_i + bD_j) \otimes (D_k + dD_l)) = B$ , and then

$$\left( A + \frac{x}{1+x}C - \frac{x}{1+x}B \right) \left( A - \frac{x}{1-x}C + \frac{x}{1-x}B \right) = \left( A - \frac{x}{1-x}C + \frac{x}{1-x}B \right) \left( A + \frac{x}{1+x}C - \frac{x}{1+x}B \right).$$

According to Lemma 6, we get  $AB = BA$ . So it follows that  $2x(AC - CA) = 0$ . As the arbitrariness of  $x$ , the equation (4) is proved. Evidently

$$\begin{aligned} & \left( I_{m_1 m_2} + \frac{x}{1+x} ((aD_i + bD_{ij}^+) \otimes (cD_k + dD_{kl}^-)) - \frac{x}{1+x} ((D_i + bD_j) \otimes (D_k + dD_l)) \right)^{-1} \\ &= I_{m_1 m_2} - \frac{x}{1-x} ((aD_i + bD_{ij}^+) \otimes (cD_k + dD_{kl}^-)) + \frac{x}{1-x} ((D_i + bD_j) \otimes (D_k + dD_l)), \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \left( I_{m_1 m_2} + \frac{x}{1+x} \left( (aD_{ij}^+ + bD_{ij}^-) \otimes (cD_{kl}^+ + dD_{kl}^-) \right) - \frac{x}{1+x} \left( (D_i + D_j) \otimes (D_k + D_l) \right) \right)^{-1} \\ & = I_{m_1 m_2} - \frac{x}{1-x} \left( (aD_{ij}^+ + bD_{ij}^-) \otimes (cD_{kl}^+ + dD_{kl}^-) \right) + \frac{x}{1-x} \left( (D_i + D_j) \otimes (D_k + D_l) \right), \end{aligned}$$

and then the above formulas can be used to prove the validity of equations(5) and (6) through direct calculation.

**Lemma 8** Assuming  $f : H_{m_1 m_2} \rightarrow H_n$  is a linear map preserving inverses of tensor products of Hermite matrices, then

$$f(E_{ii} \otimes E_{kk}) f(E_{jj} \otimes E_{ll}) = f(E_{jj} \otimes E_{ll}) f(E_{ii} \otimes E_{kk}) = 0,$$

where  $i, j \in [1, m_1], k, l \in [1, m_2], i \neq j$  and  $k \neq l$ .

*Proof.* For any  $x, y \neq 0, x, y \neq 1$

$$\left( I_{m_1 m_2} + (x-1)(E_{ii} \otimes E_{kk}) + (y-1)(E_{jj} \otimes E_{ll}) \right)^{-1} = I_{m_1 m_2} + (x^{-1}-1)(E_{ii} \otimes E_{kk}) + (y^{-1}-1)(E_{jj} \otimes E_{ll}),$$

and suppose  $f(I_{m_1 m_2}) = A, f(E_{ii} \otimes E_{kk}) = B_1$  and  $f(E_{jj} \otimes E_{ll}) = B_2$  then

$$(A + (x-1)B_1 + (y-1)B_2)(A + (x^{-1}-1)B_1 + (y^{-1}-1)B_2) = I_n, \tag{7}$$

$$(A + (x^{-1}-1)B_1 + (y^{-1}-1)B_2)(A + (x-1)B_1 + (y-1)B_2) = I_n, \tag{8}$$

combine the above equations

$$(yx^{-1} - y - x^{-1} - xy^{-1} + x + y^{-1})(B_1 B_2 - B_2 B_1) = 0.$$

Because of the arbitrariness of  $x, y$ , we get  $B_1 B_2 = B_2 B_1$ . With the equation (7) or (8), it can imply that

$$\begin{aligned} & (x + x^{-1} - 2)AB_1 + (y + y^{-1} - 2)AB_2 + (2 - x - x^{-1})B_1^2 + (2 - y - y^{-1})B_2^2 \\ & + (yx^{-1} - y^{-1} - x + 1 + xy^{-1} - x^{-1} - y + 1)B_1 B_2 = 0. \end{aligned}$$

According to Lemma 6, we get that  $B_1^2 = AB_1$  and  $B_2^2 = AB_2$ . Then  $(yx^{-1} - y^{-1} - x + 1 + xy^{-1} - x^{-1} - y + 1)B_1 B_2 = 0$ . Because of the arbitrariness of  $x, y$ , we have  $B_1 B_2 = 0$ . And the proof is completed.

### 3. Results

**Theorem 1** A linear map  $f : H_{m_1 m_2} \rightarrow H_n$  preserves inverses of tensor products of Hermite matrices if and only if  $f$  is one of the following two forms:

- (1) When  $m_1 m_2 = n$ , there exists a unitary matrix  $P \in M_n$ , a natural number  $\lambda \in \{-1, 1\}$  and a canonical map  $\pi$  on  $H_{m_1 m_2}$  such that  $f(X) = \lambda P \pi(X) P^*, \forall X \in H_{m_1 m_2}$ ;
- (2) When  $m_1 m_2 < n$ , there exist natural numbers  $p_i, q_i (i = 1, 2, 3, 4)$ , a unitary matrix  $P \in M_n$  and canonical maps  $\pi_i (i = 1, 2, 3, 4)$  on  $H_{m_1 m_2}$  such that

$$f(X) = P \left( \left( \bigoplus_{i=1}^4 \pi_i(X) \otimes I_{p_i} \right) \oplus \left( \bigoplus_{i=1}^4 \pi_i(X) \otimes (-I_{q_i}) \right) \right) P^*, \forall X \in H_{m_1 m_2},$$

where  $I_0$  means that there is not the item which corresponds to it in direct sum.

*Proof.* The sufficiency is obvious, we only need to prove the necessity.

If  $m_1 m_2 > n$ , we can conclude that  $f = 0$ , which is contradicted with  $f$  being a linear map preserving inverses. Hence,  $m_1 m_2 \leq n$ .

When  $m_1 m_2 \leq n$ , obviously we obtain that  $f(I_{m_1 m_2})^{-1} = f(I_{m_1 m_2}^{-1}) = f(I_{m_1 m_2})$ , i.e.,  $f(I_{m_1 m_2})^3 = f(I_{m_1 m_2})$ . Applying  $f(I_{m_1 m_2}) \in H_n$  and Lemma 3, there is a unitary matrix  $P \in M_n$  and two natural numbers  $t_1, t_2$ , such that  $f(I_{m_1 m_2}) = P \text{diag}(I_{t_1}, -I_{t_2}) P^{-1}$  and  $t_1 + t_2 = n$ . Let  $f(E_{ii} \otimes E_{kk}) = P \begin{bmatrix} A_{ij} & C_{ij} \\ D_{ij} & B_{ij} \end{bmatrix} P^{-1}$ , where  $A_{ij} \in H_{t_1}, B_{ij} \in H_{t_2}$ . Using Lemma 6,

we have  $f(E_{ii} \otimes E_{kk}) = P \begin{bmatrix} A_{ij} & 0 \\ 0 & B_{ij} \end{bmatrix} P^{-1}$ ,  $A_{ij} = A_{ij}^2$  and  $-B_{ij} = B_{ij}^2$ . According to Lemma 7, let

$$f\left( (aD_i + bD_{ij}^-) \otimes (cD_k + dD_{kl}^+) \right) = P \begin{bmatrix} C_{ijkl}^1 & 0 \\ 0 & D_{ijkl}^1 \end{bmatrix} P^{-1},$$

$$f\left(\left(aD_i + bD_{ij}^+\right) \otimes \left(cD_k + dD_{kl}^-\right)\right) = P \begin{bmatrix} C_{ijkl}^2 & 0 \\ 0 & D_{ijkl}^2 \end{bmatrix} P^{-1},$$

$$f\left(\left(aD_{ij}^+ + bD_{ij}^-\right) \otimes \left(cD_{kl}^+ + dD_{kl}^-\right)\right) = P \begin{bmatrix} C_{ijkl}^3 & 0 \\ 0 & D_{ijkl}^3 \end{bmatrix} P^{-1}.$$

According to the properties of  $f$ , we can construct two maps  $f_1 : H_{m_1 m_2} \rightarrow H_{t_1}$  and  $f_2 : H_{m_1 m_2} \rightarrow H_{t_2}$ . For any  $X_1 \otimes X_2 \in H_{m_1 m_2}$ , suppose

$$f_1(X_1 \otimes X_2) = \sum x_{ijkl}^1 C_{ijkl}^1 + \sum x_{ijkl}^2 C_{ijkl}^2 + \sum x_{ijkl}^3 C_{ijkl}^3,$$

$$-f_2(X_1 \otimes X_2) = \sum x_{ijkl}^1 D_{ijkl}^1 + \sum x_{ijkl}^2 D_{ijkl}^2 + \sum x_{ijkl}^3 D_{ijkl}^3.$$

Let  $F(X_1 \otimes X_2) = P^{-1} f(X_1 \otimes X_2) P$ , then

$$F(X_1 \otimes X_2) = f_1(X_1 \otimes X_2) \oplus (-f_2(X_1 \otimes X_2)), \tag{9}$$

and for any invertible  $X_1 \otimes X_2 \in H_{m_1 m_2}$ , we have

$$f(X_1 \otimes X_2)^{-1} = P\left(f_1(X_1 \otimes X_2)^{-1} \oplus (-f_2(X_1 \otimes X_2)^{-1})\right) P^{-1},$$

and

$$f\left((X_1 \otimes X_2)^{-1}\right) = P\left(f_1\left((X_1 \otimes X_2)^{-1}\right) \oplus \left(-f_2\left((X_1 \otimes X_2)^{-1}\right)\right)\right) P^{-1}.$$

So  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  preserve inverses of tensor products of Hermite matrices as  $f$ . Let  $X_1 \otimes X_2 = I_{m_1 m_2}$ , then  $F(I_{m_1 m_2}) = \text{diag}(I_{t_1}, -I_{t_2}) = f_1(I_{m_1 m_2}) \oplus (-f_2(I_{m_1 m_2}))$ . The following proof shows that  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  are linear maps preserving idmpotence of tensor products of matrices.

For any idempotent matrices  $X_3 \otimes X_4 \in H_{m_1 m_2}$ , there is a unitary matrix  $T$  such that  $X_3 \otimes X_4 = T \begin{bmatrix} I_v & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} T^{-1}$ .

Suppose  $g_1(X_3 \otimes X_4) = f_1(T(X_3 \otimes X_4)T^{-1})$ . Then we derive that  $g_1$  is a linear map preserving inverses of tensor products of matrices and  $g_1(I_{m_1 m_2}) = f_1(TI_{m_1 m_2}T^{-1}) = f_1(I_{m_1 m_2}) = I_{t_1}$ . According to Lemma 6, we have that  $g_1(I_{m_1 m_2})g_1(E_{ii} \otimes E_{kk}) = g_1(E_{ii} \otimes E_{kk})^2$ , i.e.,  $g_1(E_{ii} \otimes E_{kk}) = g_1(E_{ii} \otimes E_{kk})^2$ . With the Lemma 8, it can imply that

$$g_1 \begin{bmatrix} I_v & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = g_1^2 \begin{bmatrix} I_v & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

and then we have that  $f_1^2(X_3 \otimes X_4) = f_1(X_3 \otimes X_4)$ , which is said that  $f_1$  is a linear map preserving idmpotence and satisfies  $f_1(I_{m_1 m_2}) = I_{t_1}$ . Using Lemma 5, we derive that  $f_1$  is one of the following two forms for any  $X \in H_{m_1 m_2}$ :

- (1)When  $m_1 m_2 = t_1$ , there exists a unitary matrix  $P_1 \in M_{t_1}$  and a canonical map  $\pi_1$  on  $H_{m_1 m_2}$  such that  $f_1(X) = P_1 \pi_1(X) P_1^*$ ;
- (2)When  $m_1 m_2 < t_1$ , there exist natural numbers  $p_i (i = 1, 2, 3, 4)$ , a unitary matrix  $P_1 \in M_{t_1}$  and canonical maps  $\pi_i (i = 1, 2, 3, 4)$  on  $H_{m_1 m_2}$  such that

$$f_1(X) = P_1 \left( \bigoplus_{i=1}^4 \pi_i(X) \otimes I_{p_i} \right) P_1^*,$$

where  $I_0$  means that there is not the item which corresponds to it in direct sum.

With the same proof method as above, we derive that  $f_2$  is also the linear map preserving idmpotence, and has one of the following two forms for any  $X \in H_{m_1 m_2}$ .

- (1)When  $m_1 m_2 = t_2$ , there exists a unitary matrix  $P_2 \in M_{t_2}$  and a canonical map  $\pi_2$  on  $H_{m_1 m_2}$  such that  $f_2(X) = P_2 \pi_2(X) P_2^*$ ;
- (2)When  $m_1 m_2 < t_2$ , there exist natural numbers  $q_i (i = 1, 2, 3, 4)$ , a unitary matrix  $P_2 \in M_{t_2}$  and canonical maps  $\pi_i (i = 1, 2, 3, 4)$  on  $H_{m_1 m_2}$  such that

$$f_2(X) = P_2 \left( \bigoplus_{i=1}^4 \pi_i(X) \otimes I_{q_i} \right) P_2^*,$$

where  $I_0$  means that there is not the item which corresponds to it in direct sum.

Combining with (9), the Theorem1 can be proved.

## Funding

This paper is supported by “the Fundamental Research Funds for the Central Universities” (Grant No. 2572021BC03).

## References

- Lim, M. -H. (2014). A Note on Linear Preservers of Certain Ranks of Tensor Products of Matrices. *Linear and Multilinear Algebra*, 63(7), 1442-1447. <https://doi.org/http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03081087.2014.945445>
- Huang, Z., Shi, S., & Sze, N.-S. (2016). Linear Rank Preservers on Tensor Products of Rank One Matrices. *Linear Algebra and its Application*, 508, 255-271. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.laa.2016.07.024>
- Duffner, M. A., & da Cruz, H. F. (2016). Rank Nonincreasing Linear Maps Preserving the Determinant of Tensor Product of Matrices. *Linear Algebra and its Application*, 510, 186-191. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.laa.2016.08.021>
- Zheng, B., Xu, J., & Fošner, A. (2015). Linear maps preserving idempotents of tensor products of matrices. *Linear Algebra and Its Applications*, 470, 25-39. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.laa.2014.01.036>
- Deng, L., Zheng, K. L., & Xu, J. L. (2021). Linear maps preserving idempotence of tensor products of symmetric matrices. *Journal of Natural Sciences, Harbin Normal University*, 37(2), 1-5. <https://doi.org/10.3969/j.issn.1000-5617.2021.02.001>
- Yan, L. (2022). *Characterization of linear Preserver Problems on spaces of tensor products of matrices*. (Master's thesis, Northeast Forestry University). <https://doi.org/10.27009/d.cnki.gdblu.2022.000131>
- Xu, J. L. (2016). *Linear Preserver Problems on spaces of tensor products of matrices* (Phd thesis, Harbin Institute of Technology). <https://doi.org/10.7666/d.D01102118>
- Zhang, X., & Cao, C. G. (2001). *Additive group homomorphism preserving invariant*. Harbin, Harbin Press.
- Sheng, Y. Q., Cao, C. G., & Tang, X. M. (2020). Further Results on Linear Maps Preserving Idempotence of Tensor Products of Matrices. *Journal of Natural Science of Heilongjiang University*, 37(2), 160-166. <https://doi.org/10.13482/j.isn1001-7011.2019.01.202>

## Copyrights

Copyright for this article is retained by the author(s), with first publication rights granted to the journal.

This is an open-access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).