

# On Representations Associated with Completely $n$ -Positive Linear Maps on Pro- $C^*$ -Algebras\*\*

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**Abstract** It is shown that an  $n \times n$  matrix of continuous linear maps from a pro- $C^*$ -algebra  $A$  to  $L(H)$ , which verifies the condition of complete positivity, is of the form  $[V^*T_{ij}\Phi(\cdot)V]_{i,j=1}^n$ , where  $\Phi$  is a representation of  $A$  on a Hilbert space  $K$ ,  $V$  is a bounded linear operator from  $H$  to  $K$ , and  $[T_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^n$  is a positive element in the  $C^*$ -algebra of all  $n \times n$  matrices over the commutant of  $\Phi(A)$  in  $L(K)$ . This generalizes a result of C. Y. Suen in Proc. Amer. Math. Soc., **112**(3), 1991, 709–712. Also, a covariant version of this construction is given.

**Keywords** Pro- $C^*$ -Algebra, Completely  $n$ -positive linear maps, Covariant completely  $n$ -positive linear maps

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## 1 Introduction and Preliminaries

Pro- $C^*$ -algebras are generalizations of  $C^*$ -algebras. Instead of being given by a single  $C^*$ -norm, the topology on a pro- $C^*$ -algebra is defined by a directed family of  $C^*$ -seminorms. In fact, a pro- $C^*$ -algebra is a projective limit of  $C^*$ -algebras. A pro- $C^*$ -algebra  $A$  is a complete Hausdorff topological  $*$ -algebra over  $\mathbb{C}$  whose topology is determined by its continuous  $C^*$ -seminorms in the sense that the net  $\{a_i\}_{i \in I}$  converges to 0 in  $A$  if and only if the net  $\{p(a_i)\}_{i \in I}$  converges to 0 for any continuous  $C^*$ -seminorm  $p$  on  $A$ . The set  $S(A)$  of all continuous  $C^*$ -seminorms on  $A$  is directed ( $p \geq q$  if  $p(a) \geq q(a)$  for all  $a$  in  $A$ ). For each  $p \in S(A)$ ,  $\ker p = \{a \in A; p(a) = 0\}$  is a closed two-sided ideal in  $A$  and the quotient  $*$ -algebra  $A/\ker p$ , denoted by  $A_p$ , is a  $C^*$ -algebra in the  $C^*$ -norm induced by  $p$ . The canonical map from  $A$  to  $A_p$  is denoted by  $\pi_p$ . For  $p$  and  $q$  in  $S(A)$  with  $p \geq q$ , there is a canonical morphism  $\pi_{pq} : A_p \rightarrow A_q$  of  $C^*$ -algebras such that  $\pi_{pq}(a + \ker p) = a + \ker q$  for all  $a \in A$ . Moreover,  $\{A_p, \pi_{pq}\}_{p \geq q, p, q \in S(A)}$  is an inverse system of  $C^*$ -algebras and  $\varprojlim_p A_p$  is a pro- $C^*$ -algebra which is algebraically and topologically isomorphic with  $A$ . In the literature, pro- $C^*$ -algebras have been given by different name such as  $b^*$ -algebras (by C. Apostol),  $LMC^*$ -algebras (by G. Lessner, K. Schmüdgen) or locally  $C^*$ -algebras (by A. Inoue, M. Fragoulopoulou, etc.). Besides an intrinsic interest in pro- $C^*$ -algebras as topological algebras comes from the fact that they provide an important tool in investigation of certain aspect of  $C^*$ -algebras (like multipliers of Pedersen ideal; tangent algebra of a  $C^*$ -algebra) and quantum field theory.

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A continuous  $*$ -morphism from a pro- $C^*$ -algebra  $A$  to another pro- $C^*$ -algebra  $B$  is called a morphism of pro- $C^*$ -algebras. An isomorphism of pro- $C^*$ -algebras is a bijective map  $\Phi : A \rightarrow B$  such that  $\Phi$  and  $\Phi^{-1}$  are morphisms of pro- $C^*$ -algebras.

A representation of a pro- $C^*$ -algebra  $A$  on a Hilbert space  $H$  is a continuous  $*$ -morphism  $\varphi$  from  $A$  to  $L(H)$ , the  $C^*$ -algebra of all bounded linear operators on  $H$ . A representation  $(\varphi, H)$  of  $A$  is nondegenerate if  $\varphi(A)H$  is dense in  $H$  (see [3]).

A continuous action of a locally compact group  $G$  on a pro- $C^*$ -algebra  $A$  is a morphism of groups  $\alpha : G \rightarrow \text{Aut}(A)$ . Here  $\text{Aut}(A)$  is the group of all isomorphisms of pro- $C^*$ -algebras from  $A$  onto  $A$ , such that the map  $(g, a) \mapsto \alpha_g(a)$  from  $G \times A$  to  $A$  is jointly continuous. The action  $\alpha$  is an inverse limit action if we can write  $A$  as an inverse limit  $\varprojlim_{\delta \in \Delta} A_\delta$  of  $C^*$ -algebras in such a way that there are continuous actions  $\alpha^{(\delta)}$  of  $G$  on  $A_\delta$ ,  $\delta \in \Delta$  such that  $\alpha_g = \varprojlim_{\delta \in \Delta} \alpha_g^{(\delta)}$  for all  $g \in G$  (see [15]). If  $G$  is a compact group, then any continuous action of  $G$  on  $A$  is an inverse limit action (see [15]).

A covariant representation of a dynamical system  $(A, G, \alpha)$  is a triple  $(\varphi, u, H)$ , where  $(\varphi, H)$  is a representation of  $A$  and  $(u, H)$  is a unitary representation of  $G$ , such that

$$\varphi(\alpha_g(a)) = u_g \varphi(a) (u_g)^*$$

for all  $a \in A$  and for all  $g \in G$ . A covariant representation  $(\varphi, u, H)$  is nondegenerate if  $(\varphi, H)$  is nondegenerate.

A pro- $C^*$ -dynamical system is a triple  $(A, G, \alpha)$ , where  $A$  is a pro- $C^*$ -algebra,  $G$  is a locally compact group and  $\alpha$  is a continuous inverse limit action of  $G$  on  $A$ .

Let  $(A, G, \alpha)$  be a pro- $C^*$ -dynamical system. The set  $C_c(G, A)$  of continuous functions from  $G$  to  $A$  with compact support is a  $*$ -algebra with multiplication of two elements defined by  $(f, h) \mapsto f \times h$ ,

$$(f \times h)(s) = \int_G f(t) \alpha_t(h(t^{-1}s)) dt,$$

and involution  $f \mapsto f^\#$ ,

$$f^\#(s) = \gamma(s)^{-1} \alpha_s(f(s^{-1})^*),$$

where  $\gamma$  is the modular function on  $G$ . The Hausdorff completion of  $C_c(G, A)$  with respect to the topology defined by the family of submultiplicative  $*$ -seminorms  $\{N_p\}_{p \in S(A)}$  ( $N_p$  is defined by

$$N_p(f) = \int_G p(f(t)) dt,$$

$f \in C_c(G, A)$ ) is a complete locally  $m$ -convex  $*$ -algebra  $L^1(A, G, \alpha)$  with bounded approximate unit. The enveloping algebra of  $L^1(A, G, \alpha)$  is a pro- $C^*$ -algebra, denoted by  $A \rtimes_\alpha G$  and called the crossed product of  $A$  by  $\alpha$  (see [7]).

If  $A$  is a pro- $C^*$ -algebra, then  $M_n(A)$ , the set of all  $n \times n$  matrices over  $A$  with the algebraic operations and the topology obtained by regarding it as a direct sum of  $n^2$  copies of  $A$  is a pro- $C^*$ -algebra. The concept of matricial order plays an important role to understand the infinite-dimensional noncommutative structure of operator algebras. Completely positive linear maps as the natural ordering attached to this structure have been extensively studied in [1, 4–6, 8–12, 16, 17].

A completely  $n$ -positive linear map from  $A$  to  $L(H)$  is an  $n \times n$  matrix  $[\rho_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^n$  of continuous linear maps from  $A$  to  $L(H)$  such that the map  $\rho : M_n(A) \rightarrow M_n(L(H))$  defined by

$$\rho([a_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^n) = [\rho_{ij}(a_{ij})]_{i,j=1}^n$$

is completely positive. We say that a completely  $n$ -positive linear map  $[\rho_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^n$  from  $A$  to  $L(H)$  is nondegenerate if for some approximate unit  $\{e_\lambda\}_{\lambda \in \Lambda}$  of  $A$ , the nets  $\{\rho_{ii}(e_\lambda)\}_{\lambda \in \Lambda}$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , converge strictly to the identity operator on  $H$  (see [6]).

In [17], Suen showed that each unital completely  $n$ -positive linear map  $[\rho_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^n$  from a unital  $C^*$ -algebra  $A$  to  $L(H)$  is of the form  $[V^*T_{ij}\Phi(\cdot)V]_{i,j=1}^n$  where  $\Phi$  is a unital representation of  $A$  on a Hilbert space  $K$ ,  $V$  is a partial isometry from  $H$  to  $K$ , and  $[T_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^n$  is a positive element in  $M_n(\Phi(A)')$ .  $\Phi(A)'$  denotes the commutant of  $\Phi(A)$  in  $L(K)$ .

In this paper, using a Radon-Nikodym type theorem for completely positive linear maps from a pro- $C^*$ -algebra  $A$  to  $L(H)$ , we extend the result of Suen in the context of pro- $C^*$ -algebras (see Theorem 2.1). Moreover, we prove that the representation associated with a completely  $n$ -positive linear map is unique up to unitary equivalence and give a necessary and sufficient criterion of irreducibility for this representation (see Corollary 2.1). In Section 3, we prove a covariant version of Theorem 2.1. Also we prove that a  $u$ -covariant, nondegenerate completely  $n$ -positive linear map  $[\rho_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^n$  from  $A$  to  $L(H)$  induces a nondegenerate completely  $n$ -positive linear map  $[\theta^\rho_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^n$  from  $A \times_\alpha G$  to  $L(H)$  such that the representation of  $A \times_\alpha G$  induced by  $[\theta^\rho_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^n$  is unitarily equivalent with the representation of  $A \times_\alpha G$  associated with the covariant representation of  $(A, G, \alpha)$  induced by  $[\rho_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^n$  (see Proposition 3.1 and Remark 3.2).

## 2 Representations Associated with Completely $n$ -Positive Linear Maps

**Remark 2.1** Let  $A$  be a  $C^*$ -algebra. If  $\rho = [\rho_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^n$  is a completely  $n$ -positive linear map from  $A$  to  $L(H)$ , then for each  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , the map  $\rho_{ii}$  is completely positive and for each  $i, j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  with  $i \neq j$ ,  $\rho_{ji} = \rho_{ij}^*$  ( $\rho_{ij}^*$  is a linear map from  $A$  to  $L(H)$  defined by  $\rho_{ij}^*(a) = (\rho_{ij}(a^*))^*$  for all  $a \in A$ ). Moreover, the linear maps  $(\rho_{ii} + \rho_{jj}) \pm 2\operatorname{Re} \rho_{ij}$  and  $(\rho_{ii} + \rho_{jj}) \pm 2\operatorname{Im} \rho_{ij}$  are completely positive for each  $i, j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  with  $i \neq j$  (see, for example, [13]). Then the linear maps  $\sum_{k=1}^n \rho_{kk}$ ,  $\sum_{k=1}^n \rho_{kk} \pm 2\operatorname{Re} \rho_{ij}$  and  $\sum_{k=1}^n \rho_{kk} \pm 2\operatorname{Im} \rho_{ij}$ ,  $i, j \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  with  $i \neq j$  are completely positive.

**Remark 2.2** If  $\rho = [\rho_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^n$  is a continuous completely  $n$ -positive linear map from a pro- $C^*$ -algebra  $A$  to  $L(H)$ , then there is  $p \in S(A)$  and a completely  $n$ -positive linear map  $\rho^p = [\rho_{ij}^p]_{i,j=1}^n$  from  $A_p$  to  $L(H)$  such that  $[\rho_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^n = [\rho_{ij}^p \circ \pi_p]_{i,j=1}^n$  (see [5]). From this fact and Remark 2.1 we deduce that for each  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , the continuous linear map  $\rho_{ii}$  is completely positive and for each  $i, j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  with  $i \neq j$ , the continuous linear maps  $\sum_{k=1}^n \rho_{kk}$ ,  $\sum_{k=1}^n \rho_{kk} \pm 2\operatorname{Re} \rho_{ij}$  and  $\sum_{k=1}^n \rho_{kk} \pm 2\operatorname{Im} \rho_{ij}$ , are completely positive.

The following theorem is a generalization of [17, Proposition 2.7].

**Theorem 2.1** Let  $A$  be a pro- $C^*$ -algebra, let  $H$  be a Hilbert space, and let  $\rho = [\rho_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^n$  be a completely  $n$ -positive linear map from  $A$  to  $L(H)$ .

(1) Then there is a representation  $\Phi_\rho$  of  $A$  on a Hilbert space  $H_\rho$ , a bounded linear operator  $V : H \rightarrow H_\rho$ , and a positive element  $[T_{ij}^\rho]_{i,j=1}^n \in M_n(\Phi(A)')$  with  $\sum_{i=1}^n T_{ii}^\rho = n \text{id}_{H_\rho}$  such that

- (a)  $\rho_{ij}(a) = V_\rho^* T_{ij}^\rho \Phi_\rho(a) V_\rho$  for all  $a \in A$  and  $i, j = 1, \dots, n$ ;
- (b)  $\{\Phi_\rho(a) V_\rho \xi; a \in A, \xi \in H\}$  is dense in  $H_\rho$ .

(2) If  $\Phi$  is another representation of  $A$  on a Hilbert space  $K$ ,  $V : H \rightarrow K$  is a bounded linear operator and  $[S_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^n$  is a positive element in  $M_n(\Phi(A)')$  with  $\sum_{i=1}^n S_{ii} = n \text{id}_K$  such that

- (a)  $\rho_{ij}(a) = V^* S_{ij} \Phi(a) V$  for all  $a \in A$  and  $i, j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ;
- (b)  $\{\Phi(a) V \xi; a \in A, \xi \in E\}$  is dense in  $K$ ;

then there is a unitary operator  $U : H_\rho \rightarrow K$  such that

- (i)  $\Phi(a) = U \Phi_\rho(a) U^*$  for all  $a \in A$ ;
- (ii)  $V = U V_\rho$ ;
- (iii)  $S_{ij} = U T_{ij}^\rho U^*$  for all  $i, j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ .

**Proof** (1) Let  $\tilde{\rho} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \rho_{kk}$ . By Remark 2.2,  $\tilde{\rho}$  is completely positive. Let  $(\Phi_\rho, V_\rho, H_\rho)$  be the Stinespring representation associated with  $\tilde{\rho}$  (see [9, Theorem 2.2]). Then  $\{\Phi_\rho(a) V_\rho \xi; a \in A, \xi \in H\}$  generates a dense subspace in  $H_\rho$ .

Let  $i, j \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  with  $i \neq j$ . Since  $\tilde{\rho} - \frac{1}{2}(\tilde{\rho} + \frac{2}{n} \text{Re } \rho_{ij}) = \frac{1}{2}(\tilde{\rho} - \frac{2}{n} \text{Re } \rho_{ij})$  and  $\tilde{\rho} - \frac{1}{2}(\tilde{\rho} + \frac{2}{n} \text{Im } \rho_{ij}) = \frac{1}{2}(\tilde{\rho} - \frac{2}{n} \text{Im } \rho_{ij})$  and since the linear maps  $\tilde{\rho} - \frac{2}{n} \text{Re } \rho_{ij}$  and  $\tilde{\rho} - \frac{2}{n} \text{Im } \rho_{ij}$  are completely positive (see Remark 2.2), by Radon Nikodym type theorem for completely positive linear maps [9, Theorem 3.5], there are two positive operators  $T_{ij}^{(1)}, T_{ij}^{(2)} \in \Phi_\rho(A)'$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} (\text{Re } \rho_{ij})(a) &= V_\rho^* \left( n T_{ij}^{(1)} - \frac{n}{2} \text{id}_{H_\rho} \right) \Phi_\rho(a) V_\rho, \\ (\text{Im } \rho_{ij})(a) &= V_\rho^* \left( n T_{ij}^{(2)} - \frac{n}{2} \text{id}_{H_\rho} \right) \Phi_\rho(a) V_\rho \end{aligned}$$

for all  $a \in A$ . Moreover, the positive bounded linear operators  $T_{ij}^{(1)}, T_{ij}^{(2)} \in \Phi_\rho(A)'$  are unique with the above properties. Let  $T_{ij}^\rho = (n T_{ij}^{(1)} - \frac{n}{2} \text{id}_{H_\rho}) + i(n T_{ij}^{(2)} - \frac{n}{2} \text{id}_{H_\rho})$ . Clearly,  $T_{ij}^\rho \in \Phi_\rho(A)'$  and

$$\rho_{ij}(a) = V_\rho^* T_{ij}^\rho \Phi_\rho(a) V_\rho$$

for all  $a \in A$ . It is not difficult to check that  $T_{ij}^\rho$  is unique with the above property. Moreover,  $(T_{ij}^\rho)^* = T_{ji}^\rho$ .

Let  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ . Since  $\frac{1}{n} \rho_{ii} \leq \tilde{\rho}$ , by Radon Nikodym type theorem for completely positive linear maps (see [9, Theorem 3.5]), there is a unique positive element  $T_{ii}^\rho \in \Phi_\rho(A)'$  such that

$$\rho_{ii}(a) = V_\rho^* T_{ii}^\rho \Phi_\rho(a) V_\rho$$

for all  $a \in A$ . From

$$\tilde{\rho}(a) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \rho_{ii}(a) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n V_\rho^* T_{ii}^\rho \Phi_\rho(a) V_\rho = V_\rho^* \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n T_{ii}^\rho \right) \Phi_\rho(a) V_\rho$$

and [9, Theorem 3.5], we conclude that  $\sum_{i=1}^n T_{ii}^\rho = n \text{id}_{H_\rho}$ .

From

$$\begin{aligned}
& \langle [T_{ij}^\rho]_{i,j=1}^n (\Phi_\rho(a_k) V_\rho \xi_k)_{k=1}^n, (\Phi_\rho(a_k) V_\rho \xi_k)_{k=1}^n \rangle \\
&= \sum_{i,j=1}^n \langle T_{ij}^\rho \Phi_\rho(a_j) V_\rho \xi_j, \Phi_\rho(a_i) V_\rho \xi_i \rangle \\
&= \sum_{i,j=1}^n \langle V_\rho^* T_{ij}^\rho \Phi_\rho(a_i^* a_j) V_\rho \xi_j, \xi_i \rangle \\
&= \sum_{i,j=1}^n \langle \rho_{ij}(a_i^* a_j) \xi_j, \xi_i \rangle
\end{aligned}$$

for all  $\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n \in H$  and for all  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in A$ , and taking into account that  $\rho = [\rho_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^n$  is completely positive and  $\{\Phi_\rho(a) V_\rho \xi; a \in A, \xi \in E\}$  generates  $H_\rho$ , we conclude that  $[T_{ij}^\rho]_{i,j=1}^n$  is a positive element in  $M_n(\Phi_\rho(A)')$ .

(2) We consider the linear map  $U_0 : \text{Sp}\{\Phi_\rho(a) V_\rho \xi; a \in A, \xi \in H\} \rightarrow \text{Sp}\{\Phi(a) V \xi; a \in A, \xi \in E\}$  defined by

$$U(\Phi_\rho(a) V_\rho \xi) = \Phi(a) V \xi.$$

Since

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle U_0(\Phi_\rho(a) V_\rho \xi), U_0(\Phi_\rho(a) V_\rho \xi) \rangle &= \langle \Phi(a) V \xi, \Phi(a) V \xi \rangle = \langle V^* \Phi(a^* a) V \xi, \xi \rangle \\
&= \frac{1}{n} \left\langle V^* \left( \sum_{i=1}^n S_{ii} \right) \Phi(a^* a) V \xi, \xi \right\rangle = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \langle \rho_{ii}(a^* a) \xi, \xi \rangle \\
&= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \langle V_\rho^* T_{ii}^\rho \Phi_\rho(a^* a) V_\rho \xi, \xi \rangle = \langle V_\rho^* \Phi_\rho(a^* a) V_\rho \xi, \xi \rangle \\
&= \langle \Phi_\rho(a) V_\rho \xi, \Phi_\rho(a) V_\rho \xi \rangle
\end{aligned}$$

for all  $a \in A$  and for all  $\xi \in E$ ,  $U_0$  extends to a unitary operator  $U$  from  $H_\rho$  to  $K$ . It is easy to verify that  $U \Phi_\rho(a) = \Phi(a) U$  for all  $a \in A$  and  $U V_\rho = V$ . Let  $i, j \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  and  $a \in A$ . Clearly,  $U^* S_{ij} U \in \Phi_\rho(A)'$ . From

$$\rho_{ij}(a) = V^* S_{ij} \Phi(a) V = V_\rho^* U^* S_{ij} \Phi(a) U V_\rho = V_\rho^* U^* S_{ij} U \Phi_\rho(a) V_\rho$$

and taking into account that  $T_{ij}^\rho$  is the unique element in  $\Phi_\rho(A)'$  such that

$$\rho_{ij}(a) = V_\rho^* T_{ij}^\rho \Phi_\rho(a) V_\rho$$

for all  $a \in A$ , we deduce that  $U^* S_{ij} U = T_{ij}^\rho$  and the theorem is proved.

**Remark 2.3** If  $\rho = [\rho_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^n$  is nondegenerate, then  $V_\rho$  is an isometry, since for some approximate unit  $\{e_\lambda\}_{\lambda \in \Lambda}$  of  $A$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\xi &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \lim_{\lambda} \rho_{ii}(e_\lambda) \xi = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \lim_{\lambda} V_\rho^* T_{ii}^\rho \Phi_\rho(e_\lambda) V_\rho \xi = \lim_{\lambda} V_\rho^* \Phi_\rho(e_\lambda) V_\rho \xi \\
&= V_\rho^* V_\rho \xi \quad (\text{by [5, Proposition 4.2]})
\end{aligned}$$

for all  $\xi \in H$ .

**Corollary 2.1** *Let  $A$  be a pro- $C^*$ -algebra, let  $H$  be a Hilbert space, and let  $\rho = [\rho_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^n$  be a continuous completely  $n$ -positive linear map from  $A$  to  $L(H)$ . The representation  $(\Phi_\rho, H_\rho)$  of  $A$  associated with  $\rho$  is irreducible if and only if there is a pure completely positive linear map  $\theta$  from  $A$  to  $L(H)$  and a positive matrix  $[\lambda_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^n$  in  $M_n(\mathbb{C})$  with  $\sum_{k=1}^n \lambda_{kk} = n$  such that  $\rho = [\lambda_{ij}\theta]_{i,j=1}^n$ .*

**Proof** First we suppose that  $(\Phi_\rho, H_\rho)$  is irreducible. Then  $\tilde{\rho}$  is pure and for each  $i, j \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  there is  $\lambda_{ij} \in \mathbb{C}$  such that  $T_{ij}^\rho = \lambda_{ij} \text{id}_{H_\rho}$  (see [9, Corollary 3.6]). Moreover,  $[\lambda_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^n$  is a positive matrix in  $M_n(\mathbb{C})$  with  $\sum_{k=1}^n \lambda_{kk} = n$ , and since

$$\rho_{ij}(a) = \lambda_{ij} V_\rho^* \Phi_\rho(a) V_\rho = \lambda_{ij} \tilde{\rho}(a)$$

for all  $a \in A$  and for all  $i, j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ,

$$\rho = [\lambda_{ij} \tilde{\rho}]_{i,j=1}^n.$$

Conversely, if  $\rho = [\lambda_{ij}\theta]_{i,j=1}^n$  and  $\sum_{k=1}^n \lambda_{kk} = n$ , then  $\tilde{\rho} = \theta$  and since  $\theta$  is pure, the representation of  $A$  associated with  $\tilde{\rho}$  is irreducible (see [9, Corollary 3.6]). Therefore the representation  $(\Phi_\rho, H_\rho)$  of  $A$  associated with  $\rho$  is irreducible.

### 3 Covariant Representations Associated with Covariant Completely $n$ -Positive Linear Maps

**Definition 3.1** *Let  $A$  be a pro- $C^*$ -algebra, let  $(G, A, \alpha)$  be a pro- $C^*$ -dynamical system and let  $u$  be a unitary representation of  $G$  on a Hilbert space  $H$ . We say that a completely  $n$ -positive linear map  $\rho = [\rho_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^n$  from  $A$  to  $L(H)$  is  $u$ -covariant with respect to the pro- $C^*$ -dynamical system  $(G, A, \alpha)$  if*

$$\rho_{ij}(\alpha_g(a)) = u_g \rho_{ij}(a) (u_g)^*$$

for all  $a \in A$  and for all  $g \in G$ .

The following theorem is a covariant version of Theorem 2.1.

**Theorem 3.1** *Let  $A$  be a pro- $C^*$ -algebra, let  $(G, A, \alpha)$  be a pro- $C^*$ -dynamical system, let  $u$  be a unitary representation of  $G$  on a Hilbert space  $H$ , and let  $\rho = [\rho_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^n$  be a  $u$ -covariant nondegenerate completely  $n$ -positive linear map from  $A$  to  $L(H)$ .*

(1) *Then there is a covariant representation  $(\Phi_\rho, v^\rho, H_\rho)$  of  $(G, A, \alpha)$ , an isometry  $V_\rho$  in  $L(H, H_\rho)$  and a positive element  $[T_{ij}^\rho]_{i,j=1}^n$  in  $M_n(\Phi_\rho(A)' \cap v^\rho(G)')$  with  $\sum_{i=1}^n T_{ii}^\rho = n \text{id}_{H_\rho}$  such that*

- (a)  $\rho_{ij}(a) = V_\rho^* T_{ij}^\rho \Phi_\rho(a) V_\rho$  for all  $a \in A$  and for all  $i, j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ;
- (b)  $\{\Phi_\rho(a) V_\rho \xi; a \in A, \xi \in H\}$  spans a dense subspace of  $H_\rho$ ;
- (c)  $v_g^\rho V_\rho = V_\rho u_g$  for all  $g \in G$ .

(2) *If  $(\Phi, v, K)$  is a covariant representation of  $(G, A, \alpha)$ ,  $V$  is an isometry in  $L(H, K)$ , and  $[S_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^n$  is a positive element in  $M_n(\Phi(A)' \cap v(G)')$  with  $\sum_{i=1}^n S_{ii} = n \text{id}_K$  such that*

- (a)  $\rho(a) = V^* S_{ij} \Phi(a) V$  for all  $a \in A$  and for all  $i, j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ;
- (b)  $\{\Phi(a) V \xi; a \in A, \xi \in H\}$  spans a dense subspace of  $K$ ;
- (c)  $v_g V = V u_g$  for all  $g \in G$ ,

then there is a unitary operator  $U$  in  $L(H_\rho, K)$  such that

- (i)  $\Phi(a) = U \Phi_\rho(a) U^*$  for all  $a \in A$ ;
- (ii)  $v_g = U v_g^\rho U^*$  for all  $g \in G$ ;
- (iii)  $V = U V_\rho$ ;
- (iv)  $S_{ij} = U T_{ij}^\rho U^*$  for all  $i, j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ .

**Proof** (1) Let  $\tilde{\rho} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \rho_{ii}$ . Clearly,  $\tilde{\rho}$  is a  $u$ -covariant nondegenerate continuous completely positive linear map from  $A$  to  $L(H)$ . Let  $(\Phi_\rho, v^\rho, V_\rho, H_\rho)$  be the covariant Stinespring construction associated with  $\tilde{\rho}$  (see, for example, [8, Theorem 3.6]). Moreover, the triple  $(\Phi_\rho, V_\rho, H_\rho)$  is the Stinespring representation associated with  $\tilde{\rho}$ . Therefore the quadruple  $(\Phi_\rho, v^\rho, V_\rho, H_\rho)$  verifies the relations Theorem 3.1(1)(a) and Theorem 3.1(1)(c) and by the proof of Theorem 2.1, there is a positive element  $[T_{ij}^\rho]_{i,j=1}^n$  in  $M_n(\Phi_\rho(A)')$  with  $\sum_{i=1}^n T_{ii}^\rho = n \text{id}_{H_\rho}$ , such that

$$\rho_{ij}(a) = V_\rho^* T_{ij}^\rho \Phi_\rho(a) V_\rho \quad \text{for all } a \in A \text{ and for all } i, j = 1, 2, \dots, n.$$

Let  $i, j \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ . To show that  $T_{ij}^\rho \in v^\rho(G)'$ , let  $a \in A$ . From

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_{ij}(a) &= u_g^* \rho_{ij}(\alpha_g(a)) u_g = u_g^* V_\rho^* T_{ij}^\rho \Phi_\rho(\alpha_g(a)) V_\rho u_g \\ &= V_\rho^* (v_g^\rho)^* T_{ij}^\rho v_g^\rho \Phi_\rho(a) (v_g^\rho)^* v_g^\rho V_\rho \\ &= V_\rho^* (v_g^\rho)^* T_{ij}^\rho v_g^\rho \Phi_\rho(a) V_\rho \end{aligned}$$

for all  $g \in G$  and the uniqueness of  $T_{ij}^\rho$  such that  $\rho_{ij}(a) = V_\rho^* T_{ij}^\rho \Phi_\rho(a) V_\rho$ , we deduce that  $T_{ij}^\rho = (v_g^\rho)^* T_{ij}^\rho v_g^\rho$  for all  $g \in G$  and so  $T_{ij}^\rho \in v^\rho(G)'$ .

(2) Since

$$\tilde{\rho}(a) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \rho_{ii}(a) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n V^* S_{ii} \Phi(a) V = V^* \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n S_{ii} \right) \Phi(a) V = V^* \Phi(a) V$$

for all  $a \in A$ ,  $\{\Phi(a) V \xi; a \in A, \xi \in H\}$  spans a dense subspace of  $K$  and since  $v_g V = V u_g$  for all  $g \in G$ ,  $(\Phi, v, K)$  is a covariant representation of  $(A, G, \alpha)$  associated with  $\tilde{\rho}$  and then there is a unitary operator  $U : H_\rho \rightarrow K$  (see [8, Theorem 3.6]) such that

- (a)  $\Phi(a) = U \Phi_\rho(a) U^*$  for all  $a \in A$ ;
- (b)  $v_g = U v_g^\rho U^*$  for all  $g \in G$ ;
- (c)  $V = U V_\rho$ .

Let  $i, j \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ . From

$$\rho_{ij}(a) = V^* S_{ij} \Phi(a) V = V_\rho^* U^* S_{ij} \Phi(a) U V_\rho = V_\rho^* (U^* S_{ij} U) \Phi_\rho(a) V_\rho$$

for all  $a \in A$  and the uniqueness of the bounded linear operator  $T_{ij}^\rho \in \Phi_\rho(A)'$  such that  $\rho_{ij}(a) = V_\rho^* T_{ij}^\rho \Phi_\rho(a) V_\rho$  for all  $a \in A$ , we deduce that  $T_{ij}^\rho = U^* S_{ij} U$  and the theorem is proved.

**Remark 3.1** Any  $u$ -covariant completely  $n$ -positive linear map  $\rho = [\rho_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^n$  from  $A$  to  $L(H)$  with respect the pro- $C^*$ -dynamical system  $(G, A, \alpha)$  induces a nondegenerate covariant

representation  $(\Phi_\rho, v^\rho, H_\rho)$  of  $(G, A, \alpha)$  and so a nondegenerate representation  $(\Phi_\rho \times v^\rho, H_\rho)$  of  $A \times_\alpha G$  (see [7]).

**Proposition 3.1** *Let  $(G, A, \alpha)$  be a pro- $C^*$ -dynamical system, let  $H$  be a Hilbert space, and let  $u$  be a unitary representation of  $G$  on  $H$ . If  $\rho = [\rho_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^n$  is a  $u$ -covariant nondegenerate completely  $n$ -positive linear map from  $A$  to  $L(H)$ , then there is a unique completely  $n$ -positive linear map  $\theta^\rho = [\theta_{ij}^\rho]_{i,j=1}^n$  from  $A \times_\alpha G$  to  $L(H)$  such that*

$$\theta_{ij}^\rho(f) = \int_G \rho_{ij}(f(g)) u_g dg$$

for all  $f \in C_c(G, A)$  and for all  $i, j \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ . Moreover,  $\theta^\rho$  is nondegenerate.

**Proof** Let  $(\Phi_\rho, v^\rho, V_\rho, H_\rho, [T_{ij}^\rho]_{i,j=1}^n)$  be the construction associated with  $\rho$  by Theorem 3.1. Since  $T_{ij}^\rho \in \Phi_\rho(A)' \cap v^\rho(G)'$ , it is not difficult to verify that  $T_{ij}^\rho \in (\Phi_\rho \times v^\rho)(A \times_\alpha G)'$  for all  $i, j \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ .

For each  $i, j \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ , we consider the linear map  $\theta_{ij}^\rho : A \times_\alpha G \rightarrow L(H)$  defined by

$$\theta_{ij}^\rho(x) = V_\rho^* T_{ij}^\rho (\Phi_\rho \times v^\rho)(x) V_\rho.$$

Clearly,  $\theta_{ij}^\rho$  is continuous. To show that  $\theta^\rho = [\theta_{ij}^\rho]_{i,j=1}^n$  is completely  $n$ -positive, it is sufficient to show that the map  $S(\theta^\rho) : A \times_\alpha G \rightarrow M_n(L(H))$  defined by

$$S(\theta^\rho)(x) = [\theta_{ij}^\rho(x)]_{i,j=1}^n$$

is completely positive (see [9, Remark 2.1] and [4, Theorem 1.4]). Let  $x_1, \dots, x_m \in A \times_\alpha G$  and  $(\xi_{1i})_{i=1}^n, \dots, (\xi_{mi})_{i=1}^n \in \bigoplus_{i=1}^n H$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{l,k=1}^m \langle S(\theta^\rho)(x_l^* x_k) (\xi_{ki})_{i=1}^n, (\xi_{li})_{i=1}^n \rangle \\ &= \sum_{l,k=1}^m \langle [\theta_{ij}^\rho(x_l^* x_k)]_{i,j=1}^n (\xi_{ki})_{i=1}^n, (\xi_{li})_{i=1}^n \rangle \\ &= \sum_{l,k=1}^m \sum_{i,j=1}^n \langle \theta_{ij}^\rho(x_l^* x_k) \xi_{ki}, \xi_{lj} \rangle \\ &= \sum_{l,k=1}^m \sum_{i,j=1}^n \langle V_\rho^* T_{ij}^\rho (\Phi_\rho \times v^\rho)(x_l^* x_k) V_\rho \xi_{ki}, \xi_{lj} \rangle \\ &= \sum_{l,k=1}^m \sum_{i,j=1}^n \langle T_{ij}^\rho (\Phi_\rho \times v^\rho)(x_k) V_\rho \xi_{ki}, (\Phi_\rho \times v^\rho)(x_l) V_\rho \xi_{lj} \rangle \\ &= \sum_{i,j=1}^n \left\langle T_{ij}^\rho \sum_{k=1}^m (\Phi_\rho \times v^\rho)(x_k) V_\rho \xi_{ki}, \sum_{l=1}^m (\Phi_\rho \times v^\rho)(x_l) V_\rho \xi_{lj} \right\rangle. \end{aligned}$$

From this fact and taking into account that  $[T_{ij}^\rho]_{i,j=1}^n$  is a positive element in  $M_n(\Phi_\rho(A)')$ , we conclude that  $\theta^\rho$  is completely  $n$ -positive.



Let  $i, j \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  and  $f \in C_c(G, A)$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned}\theta_{ij}^\rho(f) &= V_\rho^* T_{ij}^\rho(\Phi_\rho \times v^\rho)(f) V_\rho = V_\rho^* T_{ij}^\rho \int_G \Phi_\rho(f(g)) v_g^\rho V_\rho dg \\ &= \int_G V_\rho^* T_{ij}^\rho \Phi_\rho(f(g)) V_\rho u_g dg = \int_G \rho_{ij}(f(g)) u_g dg.\end{aligned}$$

From this fact and taking into account that  $C_c(G, A)$  is dense in  $A \times_\alpha G$ , we conclude that  $\theta^\rho$  is unique such that

$$\theta_{ij}^\rho(f) = \int_G \rho_{ij}(f(g)) u_g dg$$

for all  $f \in C_c(G, A)$  and for all  $i, j \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ .

Let  $\{f_\delta\}_{\delta \in \Delta}$  be an approximate unit of  $A \times_\alpha G$ ,  $\{e_\lambda\}_{\lambda \in \Lambda}$  an approximate unit for  $A$  such that the nets  $\{\rho_{ii}(e_\lambda)\}_{\lambda \in \Lambda}$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , converge strictly to the identity operator on  $H$ , and  $\xi \in H$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_\delta \theta_{ii}^\rho(f_\delta) \xi &= \lim_\delta V_\rho^* T_{ii}^\rho(\Phi_\rho \times v^\rho)(f_\delta) V_\rho \xi = V_\rho^* T_{ii}^\rho V_\rho \xi \\ &= \lim_\lambda V_\rho^* T_{ii}^\rho \Phi_\rho(e_\lambda) V_\rho \xi = \lim_\lambda \rho_{ii}(e_\lambda) \xi = \xi\end{aligned}$$

for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . Therefore,  $\theta^\rho$  is nondegenerate.

**Remark 3.2** Let  $(G, A, \alpha)$  be a pro- $C^*$ -dynamical system, let  $\rho = [\rho_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^n$  be a  $u$ -covariant nondegenerate completely  $n$ -positive linear map from  $A$  to  $L(H)$ , and let  $(\Phi_\rho, v^\rho, V_\rho, H_\rho, [T_{ij}^\rho]_{i,j=1}^n)$  be the construction associated with  $\rho$  by Theorem 3.1. Then  $\Phi_\rho \times v^\rho$  is a nondegenerate representation of  $A \times_\alpha G$  on  $H_\rho$  (see [7]). Moreover,  $[T_{ij}^\rho]_{i,j=1}^n$  is a positive element in  $M_n((\Phi_\rho \times v^\rho)(A \times_\alpha G)')$  such that

$$\theta_{ij}^\rho(x) = V_\rho^* T_{ij}^\rho(\Phi_\rho \times v^\rho)(x) V_\rho$$

for all  $x \in A \times_\alpha G$  and for all  $i, j \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  and  $\{(\Phi_\rho \times v^\rho)(x) V_\rho \xi; \xi \in H, x \in A \times_\alpha G\}$  spans a dense subspace of  $H_\rho$ , since

$$(\Phi_\rho \times v^\rho)(a \times f) V_\rho \xi = \int_G \Phi_\rho(a f(g)) v_g^\rho V_\rho \xi dg = \Phi_\rho(a) V_\rho \int_G f(g) u_g \xi dg$$

for all  $a \in A$  for all  $f \in C_c(G, A)$  and for all  $\xi \in H$ , and since  $\{\Phi_\rho(a) V_\rho \xi; a \in A, \xi \in H\}$  spans a dense subspace of  $H_\rho$ . From these facts and Theorem 2.1, we conclude that there is a unitary operator  $U : H_\rho \rightarrow H_{\theta^\rho}$  such that

- (1)  $(\Phi_\rho \times v^\rho)(x) = U \Phi_{\theta^\rho}(x) U^*$  for all  $x \in A \times_\alpha G$ ;
- (2)  $V_\rho = U V_{\theta^\rho}$ ;
- (3)  $T_{ij}^\rho = U T_{ij}^{\theta^\rho} U^*$  for all  $i, j \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ .

Therefore the representation of  $A \times_\alpha G$  induced by  $\theta^\rho$  is unitarily equivalent to the representation  $\Phi_\rho \times v^\rho$  induced by the covariant nondegenerate completely  $n$ -positive linear map  $\rho = [\rho_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^n$ .

Suppose that  $(G, A, \tau)$  is a trivial pro- $C^*$ -dynamical system (that is,  $\tau_g = \text{id}_A$  for all  $g \in G$ ). Then the pro- $C^*$ -algebras  $A \times_\tau G$  and  $A \otimes_{\max} C^*(G)$ , where  $C^*(G)$  is the universal  $C^*$ -algebra associated with  $G$ , are isomorphic (see [7, 2, 3, 12]). By Theorem 3.1, any  $u$ -covariant

nondegenerate completely  $n$ -positive linear map  $\rho = [\rho_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^n$  from  $A$  to  $L(H)$  with respect to  $(G, A, \tau)$  induces a nondegenerate covariant representation of  $(G, A, \tau)$  and so it induces a nondegenerate representation of  $A \otimes_{\max} C^*(G)$  on a Hilbert space  $K$ .

**Corollary 3.1** *Let  $\rho = [\rho_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^n$  be a  $u$ -covariant nondegenerate completely  $n$ -positive linear map from  $A$  to  $L(H)$  with respect to the trivial pro- $C^*$ -dynamical system  $(G, A, \tau)$ . Then,  $\rho$  induces a completely  $n$ -positive linear map  $\theta^\rho = [\theta_{ij}^\rho]_{i,j=1}^n$  from  $A \otimes_{\max} C^*(G)$  to  $L(H)$ . Moreover, the representation of  $A \otimes_{\max} C^*(G)$  induced by  $\rho$  is unitarily equivalent to the representation induced by  $\theta^\rho$ .*

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