# AN APPLICATION OF FREE TRANSPORT TO MIXED q-GAUSSIAN ALGEBRAS

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ABSTRACT. We consider the mixed q-Gaussian algebras introduced by Speicher which are generated by the variables  $X_i = l_i + l_i^*, i = 1, ..., N$ , where  $l_i^* l_j - q_{ij} l_j l_i^* = \delta_{i,j}$  and  $-1 < q_{ij} = q_{ji} < 1$ . Using the free monotone transport theorem of Guionnet and Shlyakhtenko, we show that the mixed q-Gaussian von Neumann algebras are isomorphic to the free group von Neumann algebra  $L(\mathbb{F}_N)$ , provided that  $\max_{i,j} |q_{ij}|$  is small enough. Similar results hold in the reduced  $C^*$ -algebra setting. The proof relies on some estimates which are generalizations of Dabrowski's results for the special case  $q_{ij} \equiv q$ .

#### 1. Introduction

A fundamental problem in the theory of operator algebras is whether two algebras are isomorphic. The operator algebra (both the (reduced)  $C^*$ -algebra and von Neumann algebra) of the free group  $\mathbb{F}_N$  with N generators has been a central object to study. In particular, these algebras are isomorphic to the algebras generated by N free semi-circular variables due to Voiculescu; see [VDN92]. Motivated from mathematical physics, Bożejko and Speicher introduced the q-Gaussian variables [BS91], which can be regarded as a deformation of the free semi-circular system. Since then, the q-Gaussian algebras have been extensively studied. For an incomplete list of results, see [BKS97, Shl04, Nou04, Śni04, Ric05, KN11, Avs11] among others. More recently, Dabrowski [Dab14], Guionnet and Shlyakhtenko [GS14] have shown that the q-Gaussian algebras are isomorphic to the algebras generated from the free groups for |q| small enough. This result was proved using the powerful free monotone transport theorem. The first named author [Nel15] adapted this to the non-tracial setting and showed that the finitely generated q-deformed free Araki-Woods algebras are isomorphic to the finitely generated free Araki-Woods factor for |q| small enough (cf. [Shl97], [Hia03]). In this paper, we give another application of Guionnet and Shlyakhtenko's theory.

The q-Gaussian variables and q-commutation relations were further generalized with the motivation from physics. In [Spe93], Speicher introduced the commutation relation

$$(1) l_i^* l_i - q_{ij} l_i l_i^* = \delta_{i,j}$$

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where  $Q = (q_{ij})_{i,j=1}^N$  is a symmetric matrix with  $|q_{ij}| \leq 1$ , and  $\delta_{i,j}$  is the Kronecker delta function. In this paper, we call the operator algebras generated by  $X_i = l_i + l_i^*$  the mixed q-Gaussian algebras and call  $X_i$ 's the mixed q-Gaussian variables. In fact, the so-called braid relations (a.k.a. Yang–Baxter equation), which are more general than (1), were also studied by Bożejko, Speicher, Nou, and Królak in [BS94, Nou04, Kró00, Kró05], among others. As for (1), Lust-Piquard [LP99] showed the  $L^p$  boundedness of the Riesz transforms associated to the number operator of the system. More recently, Junge and the second named author [JZ15] studied various properties of the mixed q-Gaussian von Neumann algebras and in particular proved that they have the complete metric approximation property and are strongly solid in the sense of Ozawa and Popa [OP10] as long as  $\max_{1 \leq i,j \leq N} |q_{ij}| < 1$ .

In the present paper, we show that if  $\max_{1 \leq i,j \leq N} |q_{ij}|$  is small enough then the mixed q-Gaussian algebras are isomorphic to the algebras generated from  $\mathbb{F}_N$ . To state the result precisely, let us denote by  $\Gamma_q(\mathbb{R}^N)$  the q-Gaussian von Neumann algebra of N generators,  $C_r^*(\mathbb{F}_N)$  (resp.  $L(\mathbb{F}_N)$ ) the reduced  $C^*$ -algebra (resp. von Neumann algebra) generated from  $\mathbb{F}_N$ .

**Theorem 1.** Let  $Q=(q_{ij})$  be a symmetric  $N\times N$  matrix with  $N\in\{2,3,\ldots\}$  and  $q_{ij}\in(-1,1)$ . Let  $\Gamma_Q$  be the von Neumann algebra generated by the mixed q-Gaussian variables  $X_1,\ldots,X_N$ . Then there exists a  $q_0=q_0(N)>0$  depending only on N such that  $\Gamma_Q\cong\Gamma_0(\mathbb{R}^N)\cong L(\mathbb{F}_N)$  and  $C^*(X_1,\ldots,X_N)\cong C^*_r(\mathbb{F}_N)$  for all Q satisfying  $\max_{i,j}|q_{ij}|< q_0$ .

The proof of this theorem relies on the construction of the conjugate variables and potentials for  $\Gamma_Q$ . To this end, we follow the idea of Dabrowski [Dab14] and obtain some estimates which are generalized from similar ones for the  $q_{ij} \equiv q$  case.

In the final section of the paper, we discuss how the same methods (along with those present in [Nel15]) can be used to handle a generalization of (1) which falls into the type III setting.

# 2. The Mixed q-Gaussian Algebra

We refer the readers to [BS94, LP99, JZ15] for unexplained preliminary facts for the mixed q-Gaussian variables. Let  $(e_i)_{i=1}^N$  be an orthonormal basis of  $\mathbb{R}^N$ . The Fock space associated with the mixed q-Gaussian variables is defined as  $\mathcal{F}_Q = \bigoplus_{n=0}^{\infty} H_Q^n$ , where  $H_Q^n$  is isomorphic to  $(\mathbb{C}^N)^{\otimes n}$  as a vector space and  $H_Q^0 = \mathbb{C}\Omega$  with  $\Omega$  being the vacuum state. Let  $S_n$  denote the symmetric group on n elements and write  $\underline{i} = (i_1, \ldots, i_n)$  for a vector in  $[N]^n := \{1, \ldots, N\}^n$ . The inner product of  $\mathcal{F}_Q$  is given by

$$\langle e_{i_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes e_{i_m}, e_{j_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes e_{j_n} \rangle_Q = \delta_{m,n} \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} a(\sigma, \underline{j}) \langle e_{i_1}, e_{j_{\sigma^{-1}(1)}} \rangle \cdots \langle e_{i_m}, e_{j_{\sigma^{-1}(n)}} \rangle.$$

Here  $a(\sigma, \underline{j})$  is a product of  $(q_{kl})$  defined as follows: We write  $\tau_1 = (12), \tau_2 = (23), \ldots, \tau_n = (n1)$  for transpositions. It is well known that  $(\tau_i)_{i=1}^n$  is a generating set of  $S_n$  and that the

number of inversions of  $\sigma \in S_n$  is given by

$$|\sigma| = \min\{k \in \mathbb{N} : \sigma = \tau_{i_1} \cdots \tau_{i_k}\}.$$

For  $\sigma \in S_n$ , assume  $|\sigma| = k$  and  $\sigma = \tau_{m_1} \cdots \tau_{m_k}$ . Then (see [BS94, LP99])

$$a(\sigma, \underline{i}) = \prod_{j=1}^{k-1} q(i_{\sigma_j(m_{k-j})}, i_{\sigma_j(m_{k-j}+1)}) q(i_{m_k}, i_{m_k+1}),$$

where  $\sigma_j = \tau_{m_{k-j+1}} \cdots \tau_{m_k}$  and we have written  $q_{i_1 i_2} = q(i_1, i_2)$ . Let  $X_i = l_i + l_i^*$  be the mixed q-Gaussian variables. Here  $l_i = l(e_i)$  is the left creation operator and  $l_i^*$  the left annihilation operator. One can check that  $l_i^*$  is the adjoint operator of  $l_i$  with respect to the inner product  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_Q$  of  $L^2(\Gamma_Q, \tau_Q)$ . Similarly, we can define  $r_i$  and  $r_i^*$ . By definition,

$$l_i(e_{j_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes e_{j_n}) = e_i \otimes e_{j_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes e_{j_n},$$

$$r_i(e_{j_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes e_{j_n}) = e_{j_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes e_{j_n} \otimes e_i,$$

$$l_i^*(e_{j_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes e_{j_n}) = \sum_{k=1}^n \delta_{i,j_k} q_{ij_1} \cdots q_{ij_{k-1}} e_{j_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes e_{j_{k-1}} \otimes e_{j_{k+1}} \otimes \cdots \otimes e_{j_n}.$$

Let  $\Gamma_Q$  denote the mixed q-Gaussian von Neumann algebra generated by  $X_i, i = 1, ..., N$ . By [BS94], there is a normal faithful tracial state  $\tau_Q$  on  $\Gamma_Q$  defined as  $\tau_Q(X) = \langle X\Omega, \Omega \rangle_Q$  for  $X \in \Gamma_Q$ . If  $\max_{ij} |q_{ij}| < 1$ , then there is a canonical unitary isomorphism between  $L^2(\Gamma_Q, \tau_Q)$  and  $\mathcal{F}_Q$  given by

$$X \mapsto X\Omega$$
, for  $X \in \Gamma_Q$ ,

which extends continuously to  $L^2(\Gamma_Q)$ . From time to time this identification will be used implicitly in the following and we write  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{\tau_Q}$  for the inner product of  $L^2(\Gamma_Q, \tau_Q)$ . Given a finite-length tensor  $\xi \in \mathcal{F}_Q$ , there is a unique element  $W(\xi)$  in  $\Gamma_Q$  such that  $W(\xi)\Omega = \xi$ , and  $W(e_{i_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes e_{i_n})$  is called the Wick word (a.k.a. Wick product in the literature) of  $e_{i_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes e_{i_n}$ .

Following [GS14, Dab14], we consider  $\mathbb{C}\langle Y_1, \ldots, Y_N \rangle$ , the algebra of noncommutative polynomials in N self-adjoint variables. Given a noncommutative power series

$$F(Y_1,\ldots,Y_N) = \sum_{i,p} a_{\underline{i},p} Y_{i_1} \cdots Y_{i_p} \otimes Y_{i_{p+1}} \cdots Y_{i_n}$$

whose radius of convergence is greater than R > 1, we define the norm  $||F||_R = \sum_{\underline{i},p} |a_{\underline{i},p}| R^n$ . Similarly, for

$$F(Y_1,\ldots,Y_N)=\sum_{\underline{i}}a_{\underline{i}}Y_{i_1}\cdots Y_{i_n},$$

with radius of convergence greater than R > 1 we define  $||F||_R = \sum_{\underline{i}} |a_{\underline{i}}| R^n$ . For an algebra  $\mathcal{A}$ , we write  $\mathcal{A}^{op}$  for the opposite algebra of  $\mathcal{A}$ , and write  $a^{\circ} \in \mathcal{A}^{op}$  whenever  $a \in \mathcal{A}$ .

3. The Derivation 
$$\partial_j^{(Q)}$$
 and  $\Xi_j$ 

Consider the linear map

$$\partial_j^{(Q)}: \mathbb{C}\langle X_1, \dots, X_N \rangle \to \mathcal{B}(L^2(\Gamma_Q)), \quad \partial_j^{(Q)}(X) = [X, r_j] := Xr_j - r_j X.$$

For  $i = 1, \ldots, N$ , define

$$\Xi_i: \mathcal{F}_Q \to \mathcal{F}_Q, \quad \Xi_i(e_{j_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes e_{j_n}) = q_{ij_1} \cdots q_{ij_n} e_{j_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes e_{j_n}.$$

We also write  $q_i(j) = q_{ij_1} \cdots q_{ij_n}$  for short.

For each  $n \geq 1$ , we consider the following equivalence relation on  $[N]^n$ :  $\underline{i} \sim \underline{j}$  if  $\exists \sigma \in S_n$  such that

$$\underline{i} = \sigma \cdot \underline{j} = (j_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, j_{\sigma(n)}).$$

Let  $[\underline{i}]$  denote the equivalence class of  $\underline{i} \in [N]^n$ . Note that  $q_k(\underline{j}) = q_k(\underline{i})$  for each  $\underline{j} \in [\underline{i}]$  and each  $k = 1, \ldots, N$ ; consequently, we may at times denote  $q_k(\underline{i})$  by  $q_k([\underline{i}])$ . For each equivalence class  $[\underline{i}]$  we define the subspace

$$\mathcal{F}_{\left[\underline{i}\right]} := \operatorname{span}\left\{e_{j_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes e_{j_n} \colon \underline{j} \in \left[\underline{i}\right]\right\},$$

and denote by  $p_{[\underline{i}]}$  the orthogonal projection onto  $\mathcal{F}_{[\underline{i}]}$ . It is easy to see that  $H_Q^0$  along with the subspaces  $\mathcal{F}_{[\underline{i}]}$  (ranging over all equivalence classes and all  $n \geq 1$ ) offers an orthogonal decomposition of  $\mathcal{F}_Q$ , and consequently

$$p + \sum_{n \ge 1} \sum_{[i] \in [N]^n / \sim} p_{[i]} = 1,$$

where p is the projection onto the vacuum vector. For notational consistency, we will often denote  $p = p_{\lceil (\emptyset) \rceil} \in [N]^0 / \sim$ .

For each j = 1, ..., N it follows that

(2) 
$$\Xi_j = \sum_{n \ge 0} \sum_{[i] \in [N]^n / \sim} q_j(\underline{i}) p_{[\underline{i}]}.$$

Moreover, if  $q := \max_{1 \le i,j \le N} |q_{ij}|$  satisfies  $q^2 N < 1$  then  $\Xi_j \in HS(\mathcal{F}_Q)$ , the Hilbert–Schmidt operators on  $\mathcal{F}_Q$ , since for each  $n \ge 1$ 

$$\sum_{[\underline{i}] \in [N]^n / \sim} ||p_{[\underline{i}]}||_{HS}^2 = \sum_{k_1 + \dots + k_N = n} \binom{n}{k_1, \dots, k_N} = N^n.$$

Noting that  $[l_i, r_j] = 0$ , we see that

$$\partial_i^{(Q)}(X_i)(e_{i_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes e_{i_n}) = \delta_{i,j}q_{ii_1} \cdots q_{ii_n}e_{i_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes e_{i_n},$$

and hence  $\partial_j^{(Q)}(X_i) = \delta_{i,j}\Xi_j$ . As the space of Hilbert–Schmidt operators is a two-sided ideal in  $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{F}_Q)$ , the Leibniz rule implies  $\partial_j^{(Q)}$  maps  $\mathbb{C}\langle X_1,\ldots,X_N\rangle$  into  $HS(\mathcal{F}_Q)$  for each

j = 1, ..., N whenever  $\Xi_j \in HS(\mathcal{F}_Q)$ . When this is the case, we think of  $\partial_j^{(Q)}$  as a densely defined derivation

$$\partial_j^{(Q)} : L^2(\Gamma_Q, \tau_Q) \to HS(\mathcal{F}_Q).$$

Recall that  $L^2(\Gamma_Q \bar{\otimes} \Gamma_Q^{op}, \tau_Q \otimes \tau_Q^{op})$  is isomorphic to  $HS(\mathcal{F}_Q)$  via the map

$$a \otimes b^{\circ} \mapsto \langle \cdot, b^* \Omega \rangle a \Omega.$$

In particular,  $1 \otimes 1^{\circ} \mapsto p$ . We will usually think of  $\partial_j^{(Q)}$  as having range  $L^2(\Gamma_Q \bar{\otimes} \Gamma_Q^{op}, \tau_Q \otimes \tau_Q^{op})$ .

**Proposition 2.** Suppose  $\Xi_j \in HS(\mathcal{F}_Q)$ . Then  $\partial_j^{(Q)*}(1 \otimes 1^\circ) = X_j$ .

*Proof.* Fix  $\underline{i} \in [N]^n$  and let  $\pi_1 \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{F}_Q)$  denote the projection onto tensors of length one. Then there exist scalars  $c_1, \ldots, c_n$  such that

$$\pi_1 X_{i_1} \cdots X_{i_n} \Omega = \sum_{t=1}^n c_t e_{i_t},$$

where we are summing over which operator  $X_{i_1}, \ldots, X_{i_n}$  created the vector  $e_{i_t}$ . We claim

$$c_{t} = \sum_{d \geq 0} \sum_{[\underline{j}] \in [N]^{d}/\sim} q_{i_{t}}(\underline{j}) \langle X_{i_{1}} \cdots X_{i_{t-1}} p_{[\underline{j}]} X_{i_{t+1}} \cdots X_{i_{n}} \Omega, \Omega \rangle_{Q}$$
$$= \langle X_{i_{1}} \cdots X_{i_{t-1}} \Xi_{i_{t}} X_{i_{t+1}} \cdots X_{i_{n}} \Omega, \Omega \rangle_{Q}.$$

First note that the second equality is immediate from (2). Now, the only terms from  $\pi_1 X_{i_1} \cdots X_{i_n} \Omega$  which contribute to  $c_t$  are those where  $X_{i_t}$  creates  $e_{i_t}$ ; that is, ones where the creation operator rather than the annihilation operator in  $X_{i_t}$  acts. Hence towards computing  $c_t$  we may replace  $X_{i_t}$  with  $l_{i_t}$  and compute

$$\pi_1 X_{i_1} \cdots X_{i_{t-1}} l_{i_t} X_{i_{t+1}} \cdots X_{i_n} \Omega.$$

Recall that we have the partition of unity  $\{p_{[\underline{j}]}: d \geq 0, \ [\underline{j}] \in [N]^d / \sim \}$ . For each  $d \geq 0$  and  $[j] \in [N]^d / \sim$ , let  $\{\zeta_\ell^{[\underline{j}]}\}$  be an orthonormal basis for  $\mathcal{F}_{[j]}$ . Then we have

$$\begin{split} \pi_1 X_{i_1} \cdots X_{i_{t-1}} l_{i_t} X_{i_{t+1}} \cdots X_{i_n} \Omega \\ &= \sum_{d \geq 0} \sum_{[\underline{j}] \in [N]^d/\sim} \pi_1 X_{i_1} \cdots X_{i_{t-1}} l_{i_t} p_{[\underline{j}]} X_{i_{t+1}} \cdots X_{i_n} \Omega \\ &= \sum_{d \geq 0} \sum_{[\underline{j}] \in [N]^d/\sim} \sum_{\ell} \pi_1 X_{i_1} \cdots X_{i_{t-1}} e_{i_t} \otimes \zeta_{\ell}^{[\underline{j}]} \left\langle X_{i_{t+1}} \cdots X_{i_n} \Omega, \zeta_{\ell}^{[\underline{j}]} \right\rangle_Q. \end{split}$$

Furthermore, of the above terms the only ones which contribute to  $c_t$  are those where  $e_{i_t}$  survives; that is, where none of the operators  $X_{i_1}, \ldots, X_{i_{t-1}}$  annihilate  $e_{i_t}$ . And yet, to survive the action of  $\pi_1$ ,  $\zeta_{\ell}^{[\underline{j}]}$  must be completely annihilated by  $X_{i_1} \cdots X_{i_{t-1}}$ . The annihilation operators from  $X_{i_1} \cdots X_{i_{t-1}}$  tasked with this must each skip over  $e_{i_t}$  at a

scalar cost  $q_{i_tk}$  for some  $k \in [N]$ . Since  $\zeta_{\ell}^{[j]}$  is a linear combination  $e_{k_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes e_{k_d}$ ,  $\underline{k} \in [\underline{j}]$ , the total scalar cost will be  $q_{i_t}(\underline{j})$ . The remaining actions of  $X_{i_1} \cdots X_{i_{t-1}}$  (any creation operators and any annihilation operators acting on vectors left of  $e_{i_t}$  in the tensor product) are unaffected by the presence of  $e_{i_t}$ . In summary, the contribution to  $c_t$  from the terms in the sum above is as follows:

$$\sum_{d\geq 0} \sum_{[j]\in [N]^d/\sim} \sum_{\ell} q_{i_t}(\underline{j}) e_{i_t} \left\langle X_{i_1} \cdots X_{i_{t-1}} \zeta_{\ell}^{[\underline{j}]}, \Omega \right\rangle_Q \left\langle X_{i_{t+1}} \cdots X_{i_n} \Omega, \zeta_{\ell}^{[\underline{j}]} \right\rangle_Q.$$

Noting that

$$\sum_{\ell} \left\langle X_{i_1} \cdots X_{i_{t-1}} \zeta_{\ell}^{[\underline{j}]}, \Omega \right\rangle_Q \left\langle X_{i_{t+1}} \cdots X_{i_n} \Omega, \zeta_{\ell}^{[\underline{j}]} \right\rangle_Q = \left\langle X_{i_1} \cdots X_{i_{t-1}} p_{[\underline{j}]} X_{i_{t+1}} \cdots X_{i_n} \Omega, \Omega \right\rangle_Q,$$

we see that  $c_t$  has the claimed value.

Thus for  $s \in [N]$  we have

$$\langle X_s, X_{i_1} \cdots X_{i_n} \rangle_{\tau_Q} = \langle e_s, \pi_1 X_{i_1} \cdots X_{i_n} \Omega \rangle_Q$$

$$= \sum_{t=1}^n \langle e_s, e_{i_t} \rangle_Q \langle \Omega, X_{i_1} \cdots X_{i_{t-1}} \Xi_{i_t} X_{i_{t+1}} \cdots X_{i_n} \Omega \rangle_Q$$

$$= \langle p , \partial_s^{(Q)} (X_{i_1} \cdots X_{i_n}) \rangle_{HS}$$

$$= \langle 1 \otimes 1^{\circ}, \partial_s^{(Q)} (X_{i_1} \cdots X_{i_n}) \rangle_{\tau_Q \otimes \tau_Q^{op}}.$$

Extending this via linearity from monomials to the dense subset  $\mathbb{C}\langle X_1,\ldots,X_N\rangle\subset L^2(\Gamma_Q,\tau_Q)$  concludes the proof.

Corollary 3. Suppose  $\Xi_j \in HS(\mathcal{F}_Q)$ . Then

$$\mathbb{C}\langle X_1,\ldots,X_N\rangle\otimes\mathbb{C}\langle X_1,\ldots,X_N\rangle^{op}\subset \mathrm{Dom}\,\partial_i^{(Q)*}$$
.

In particular, for  $a,b \in \mathbb{C}\langle X_1,\ldots,X_N \rangle$ 

(3) 
$$\partial_j^{(Q)*}(a \otimes b^\circ) = aX_jb - m \circ (1 \otimes \tau_Q \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes \partial_j^{(Q)} + \partial_j^{(Q)} \otimes 1)(a \otimes b^\circ),$$

where  $m(a\otimes b^\circ)=ab$ . Consequently,  $\partial_j^{(Q)}$  is closable.

*Proof.* The formula is a simple computation (*cf.* Proposition 4.1 in [Voi98], the proof of Theorem 34 in [Dab14], or Corollary 2.4 in [Nel15]). The closability of  $\partial_j^{(Q)}$  then follows because this formula holds on the dense subset  $\mathbb{C}\langle X_1,\ldots,X_N\rangle\otimes\mathbb{C}\langle X_1,\ldots,X_N\rangle^{op}\subset L^2(\Gamma_Q\bar{\otimes}\Gamma_Q^{op},\tau_Q\otimes\tau_Q^{op})$ .

Let us update the notation  $\partial_j^{(Q)}$  so that from now on it denotes the closure of this derivation.

Let  $\phi: S_n \to \mathcal{B}(H_Q^n)$  be the quasi-multiplicative function defined in [BS94] and define  $P^{(n)} = \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \phi(\sigma)$ . According to [BS94], we have

$$\langle \xi, \eta \rangle_Q = \delta_{n,m} \langle \xi, P^{(n)} \eta \rangle_0, \text{ for } \xi \in H_Q^n, \eta \in H_Q^m.$$

Here  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_0$  is the inner product associated to  $(\Gamma_0(\mathbb{R}^N), \tau_0)$ . Let  $q = \max_{1 \leq i,j \leq N} |q_{ij}|$ . Assume q < 1. By [Boż98, Theorem 2], we find

$$\|(P^{(n)})^{-1}\| \le \left[ (1-q) \prod_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1+q^k}{1-q^k} \right]^n.$$

Using the Gauss identity, we have the estimate

(4) 
$$||(P^{(n)})^{-1}|| \le \left[ (1-q) \left( \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} (-1)^k q^{k^2} \right)^{-1} \right]^n \le \left( \frac{1-q}{1-2q} \right)^n.$$

**Lemma 4.** If  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $q(3 - 2q + (3 + \varepsilon)^2 N^2) < 1$ , then there exists a noncommutative power series representation of  $\Xi_i$  with radius of convergence greater than  $R = \frac{2+\varepsilon}{1-q} > \|X_i\|$  such that

$$\|\Xi_i - 1 \otimes 1^\circ\|_R \le \frac{qN^2(3+\varepsilon)^2}{1 - q(3 - 2q + (3+\varepsilon)^2N^2)} =: \pi(q, N)$$

for i = 1, ..., N.

*Proof.* Following the argument of [Dab14], let  $G_n$  denote the Gram matrix of the inner product on  $(\Gamma_Q, \tau_Q)$  from the natural basis  $(e_{i_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes e_{i_n})$  of  $H_Q^n$ , where  $\underline{i} \in [N]^n$ . Namely,  $G_n$  is the matrix of  $P^{(n)}$  in the basis  $(e_{i_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes e_{i_n})$ . We write  $\psi_{\underline{i}} = W(e_{i_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes e_{i_n})$  for the Wick word. From the isomorphism  $L^2(\Gamma_Q, \tau_Q) \cong \mathcal{F}_Q$ , we can also write

$$(G_n)_{\underline{i}\underline{j}} = \langle e_{i_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes e_{i_n}, e_{j_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes e_{j_n} \rangle_Q = \langle \psi_{\underline{i}}, \psi_{\underline{j}} \rangle_{\tau_Q}.$$

Let us define inductively the noncommutative polynomials,  $\psi_{\varepsilon} = 1$  for the empty word  $\varepsilon$  and

(5) 
$$\psi_{i_1,\dots,i_n}(Y_1,\dots,Y_N) = Y_{i_1}\psi_{i_2,\dots,i_n} - \sum_{j=2}^n \delta_{i_1,i_j} \prod_{k=2,k\geq 2}^{j-1} q_{i_1i_k}\psi_{i_2,\dots,i_{j-1},i_{j+1},\dots,i_n}(Y_1,\dots,Y_N),$$

where the product over empty set is understood to be 1. It can be checked that  $\psi_{\underline{i}} = \psi_{\underline{i}}(X_1, \dots, X_N)$ ; cf. [Krö00]. Let us define  $B = G_n^{-1/2}$ . Note that B is a positive-definite symmetric  $N^n \times N^n$  matrix and that  $B_{\underline{i}\underline{j}} = 0$  unless  $\underline{i} \sim \underline{j}$ . For each  $|\underline{i}| = n$  let

(6) 
$$p_{\underline{i}}(Y_1, \dots, Y_N) = \sum_{|\underline{j}|=n} B_{\underline{i}\underline{j}} \psi_{\underline{j}}(Y_1, \dots, Y_N).$$

Then  $\{p_{\underline{i}}(X_1,\ldots,X_N)\Omega\}_{|\underline{i}|=n}$  is an orthonormal basis of  $H_Q^n$ , and  $\{p_{\underline{k}}(X_1,\ldots,X_N)\Omega\}_{\underline{k}\in[\underline{i}]}$  is an orthonormal basis of  $\mathcal{F}_{[\underline{i}]}$ . We want to write  $\Xi_i$  as a sum of tensors. Unlike the  $q_{ij}\equiv q$ 

case considered in [Dab14],  $\Xi_i$  behaves more like a multiplier instead of a projection. Consider

$$\Xi_j(Y_1,\ldots,Y_N) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{|i|=n} q_j(\underline{i}) p_{\underline{i}}(Y_1,\ldots,Y_N) \otimes p_{\underline{i}}^*(Y_1,\ldots,Y_N).$$

One can check that

$$\Xi_i(X_1,\ldots,X_N)\psi_i=q_i(\underline{i})\psi_i,$$

which means that  $\Xi_j$  can be identified as  $\Xi_j(X_1,\ldots,X_N)$  via the isomorphism  $\mathcal{F}_Q\cong L^2(\Gamma_Q,\tau_Q)$ . By the change of basis formula (6), writing  $w_{\underline{j}}=\psi_{\underline{j}}(Y_1,\ldots,Y_N)$ , we have

$$\Xi_{j}(Y_{1},...,Y_{N}) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{|\underline{i}|=n} q_{j}(\underline{i}) \sum_{|\underline{j}|,|\underline{k}|=n} B_{\underline{i}\underline{j}} B_{\underline{k}\underline{i}} w_{\underline{j}} \otimes w_{\underline{k}}^{*}$$
$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{|\underline{j}|,|\underline{k}|=n} q_{j}(\underline{k}) (B^{2})_{\underline{k}\underline{j}} w_{\underline{j}} \otimes w_{\underline{k}}^{*},$$

where we have used in the second equality that  $B_{\underline{k}\underline{i}}=0$  unless  $\underline{k}\sim\underline{i}$ , in which case  $q_j(\underline{i})=q_j(\underline{k})$ . Taking the norm, we have

$$\left\| \sum_{|\underline{j}|,|\underline{k}|=n} q_{\underline{j}}(\underline{k})(B^2)_{\underline{k}\underline{j}} w_{\underline{j}} \otimes w_{\underline{k}}^* \right\|_{R} \leq q^n \sum_{|\underline{k}|=n} \|w_{\underline{k}}\|_{R} \left\| \sum_{|\underline{j}|=n} (B^2)_{\underline{k}\underline{j}} w_{\underline{j}} \right\|_{R}$$

By (5), we find in the same way as the proof of [Dab14, Corollary 29] that

$$\sup_{|\underline{i}|=n} \|w_{\underline{i}}\|_R \le \left(R + \frac{1}{1-q}\right)^n.$$

Using the triangle inequality, we have

$$\left\| \sum_{|\underline{j}|=n} (B^2)_{\underline{k}\underline{j}} w_{\underline{j}} \right\|_{R} \leq \sum_{|\underline{j}|=n} |(G_n^{-1})_{\underline{k}\underline{j}}| \sup_{|\underline{i}|=n} \|w_{\underline{i}}\|_{R} \leq N^n \|(P^{(n)})^{-1}\| \left(R + \frac{1}{1-q}\right)^n.$$

Combining with (4), we have

$$\left\| \sum_{|j|,|\underline{k}|=n} q_j(\underline{k})(B^2)_{\underline{k}\underline{j}} w_{\underline{j}} \otimes w_{\underline{k}}^* \right\|_R \le q^n N^{2n} \left( R + \frac{1}{1-q} \right)^{2n} \left( \frac{1-q}{1-2q} \right)^n.$$

Plugging in  $R = \frac{2+\varepsilon}{1-q}$  and summing over all  $n \ge 1$ , we complete the proof.

#### 4. Proof of the Main Theorem

Let us write  $\mathcal{A} = \mathbb{C}\langle Y_1, \dots, Y_N \rangle$ . Suppose  $\Xi_i$  is invertible. Let  $\partial_j : \mathcal{A} \to \mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{A}^{op}$  denote the j-th free difference quotient with the property  $\partial_j P = \sum_{P=AY_jB} A \otimes B$  for a monomial  $P \in \mathcal{A}$ . Since  $\partial_j X_i = \delta_{i,j} \Xi_j \# \Xi_j^{-1} = \delta_{i,j} 1 \otimes 1^\circ$ , we have  $\partial_j = \partial_j^{(Q)} \# \Xi_j^{-1}$ , where # is the multiplication in  $\Gamma_Q \bar{\otimes} \Gamma_Q^{op}$ .

**Proposition 5.** Assume  $\pi(q, N) < 1$ . Then we have:

- (i) There exist noncommutative power series  $\xi_j(Y_1, \dots, Y_N)$  of convergence radius  $R = \frac{2+\varepsilon}{1-q} > \|X_i\|$  such that  $\{\xi_j(X_1, \dots, X_N)\}_{j=1}^N$  are the conjugate variables of  $X_1, \dots, X_N$ .
- (ii) There exists a self-adjoint potential  $V(Y_1, \ldots, Y_N)$  which is also a noncommutative power series of convergence radius R such that  $D_iV(Y_1, \ldots, Y_N) = \xi_i(Y_1, \ldots, Y_N)$  where  $D_i$  is the cyclic gradient, i.e.,  $D_iP = \sum_{P=AY_iB} BA$  for  $P \in \mathcal{A}$ .
- (iii)  $\lim_{q\to 0} \|\xi_i(Y_1,\ldots,Y_N) Y_i\|_R = 0$  for  $i = 1,\ldots,N$ .

*Proof.* By Lemma 4,  $\Xi_j^{-1} = \Xi_j^{-1}(X_1, \dots, X_N)$  for a noncommutative power series  $\Xi_j^{-1}(Y_1, \dots, Y_N)$  and we can define a noncommutative power series

$$\xi_{j}(Y_{1},...,Y_{N}) := \Xi_{j}^{-1}(Y_{1},...,Y_{N}) \# Y_{j}$$
$$- m \circ (1 \otimes \tau_{Q} \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes \partial_{j}^{(Q)} + \partial_{j}^{(Q)} \otimes 1) (\Xi_{j}^{-1}(Y_{1},...,Y_{N})) \in \mathcal{A},$$

where  $(a \otimes b^{\circ}) \# x = axb$  and  $m(a \otimes b^{\circ}) = ab$ . Then by (3) we have

$$\xi_j := \xi_j(X_1, \dots, X_N) = \partial_j^{(Q)*}(\Xi_j^{-1}).$$

Consequently for  $P \in \mathbb{C}\langle X_1, \dots, X_N \rangle$  we have

$$\langle \xi_j, P \rangle_{\tau_Q} = \langle \Xi_j^{-1}, \partial_j^{(Q)}(P) \rangle_{HS} = \langle 1 \otimes 1^{\circ}, \partial_j(P) \rangle_{\tau_Q \otimes \tau_Q^{op}};$$

that is,  $\xi_i$  is a conjugate variable.

Let  $\mathcal{N}$  be the number operator acting on  $\mathbb{C}\langle Y_1, \ldots, Y_N \rangle$ ; that is,  $\mathcal{N}$  is defined by  $\mathcal{N}P = dP$  for any monomial P of degree d. Let  $\Sigma$  denote the inverse of  $\mathcal{N}$  restricted to non-scalar polynomials. Define

$$V(Y_1, \ldots, Y_N) = \Sigma \left( \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \xi_i(Y_1, \ldots, Y_N) Y_i + Y_i \xi_i(Y_1, \ldots, Y_N) \right).$$

Then by precisely the same arguments as in Step 4 of the proof of Theorem 34 in [Dab14], one can see that  $D_iV(Y_1,\ldots,Y_N)=\xi_i(Y_1,\ldots,Y_N)$ . Indeed, thanks to Proposition 2 and part (i) above, Lemma 36 in [Dab14] can be verified using Lemma 12 in [Dab14] in our setting. The rest argument of Step 4 is algebraic, and does not use our particular inner product of  $\mathcal{F}_Q$ .

Finally, Lemma 4 implies that  $\Xi_j^{-1}(Y_1,\ldots,Y_N)$  converges to  $1\otimes 1^\circ$  with respect to the R-norm as  $q\to 0$ . By an argument similar to that of Lemma 4.3 in [Nel15], it is easy to see that this implies  $\lim_{q\to 0} \|\xi_j(Y_1,\ldots,Y_N) - Y_j\|_R = 0$ .

*Proof of Theorem 1.* This follows from Proposition 5 and the free monotone transport result of Guionnet and Shlyakhtenko [GS14, Corollary 4.3]. □

#### 5. The Type III Case

One could consider the following more general commutation relations:

(7) 
$$l_i^* l_j - q_{ij} l_j l_i^* = a_{ij},$$

for some  $\{a_{ij}\}_{1\leq i,j\leq N}\subset\mathbb{C}$ . In [Shl97], Shlyakhtenko considered the case

$$\begin{cases} q_{ij} = 0 & 1 \leq i, j \leq N, \\ a_{ii} = 1 & 1 \leq i \leq N, \\ a_{ij} = \overline{a_{ji}} \in i\mathbb{R} & 1 \leq i, j \leq N, i \neq j. \end{cases}$$

These commutation relations are satisfied by creation and annihilation operators on a Fock space corresponding to a normalized basis of vectors with purely imaginary covariance. Shlyakhtenko showed that the von Neumann algebra generated by the semi-circular operators  $\{l_i + l_i^*\}_{1 \leq i \leq N}$ , called a *free Araki-Woods factor*, is a full factor with type depending on  $(a_{ij})$ . In fact, provided the off-diagonal coefficients  $a_{ij}$ ,  $i \neq j$ , are not all zero, the factor is of type III.

For -1 < q < 1, the commutation relations for the case

$$\begin{cases} q_{ij} = q & 1 \le i, j \le N, \\ a_{ii} = 1 & 1 \le i \le N, \\ a_{ij} = \overline{a_{ji}} \in i\mathbb{R} & 1 \le i, j \le N, i \ne j, \end{cases}$$

are once again satisfied by creation and annihilation operators on a now q-Fock space, and the von Neumann algebra generated by their corresponding semi-circular operators is called a q-deformed free Araki-Woods algebra. These were originally defined by Hiai in [Hia03], who established factoriality and a type classification in the situation that  $N = \infty$  along with other technical conditions on  $(a_{ij})$ .

Using non-tracial free transport, it was shown in [Nel15] that for finite N and sufficiently small q, the q-deformed free Araki-Woods algebras are isomorphic to the corresponding free Araki-Woods factor at q=0. By combining the methods of [Nel15] with those present in this paper, it is easy to check that the same holds true in the mixed q case. That is, there exists some sufficiently small parameter  $q_0 > 0$  such that the semi-circular operators arising from the case

(8) 
$$\begin{cases} |q_{ij}| \le q_0 & 1 \le i, j \le N, \\ a_{ii} = 1 & 1 \le i \le N, \\ a_{ij} = \overline{a_{ji}} \in i\mathbb{R} & 1 \le i, j \le N, i \ne j, \end{cases}$$

generate a free Araki-Woods factor. We record this in the following theorem.

**Theorem 6.** Let  $Q=(q_{ij})$  be a symmetric  $N\times N$  matrix with  $N\in\{2,3,\ldots\}$  and  $q_{ij}\in(-1,1)$ . Let  $A=(a_{ij})$  be an  $N\times N$  matrix with  $a_{ii}=1$  and  $a_{ij}=\overline{a_{ji}}\in i\mathbb{R}$  for all  $1\leq i,j\leq N$ . Let  $l_1,\ldots,l_N$  be creation operators satisfying the commutation relations (7) with constants determined by Q and A, and de ne  $X_j=l_j+l_j^*$  for each  $1\leq j\leq N$ . Then there exists  $q_0=q_0(N,A)>0$  depending only on N and A such that for all Q satisfying

 $\max_{i,j} |q_{ij}| < q_0$  the von Neumann algebra  $\Gamma_Q^A := W^*(X_1, \dots, X_N)$  is the free Araki-Woods factor corresponding to the orthogonal representation  $\mathbb{R} \ni t \mapsto (2A^{-1} - 1)^{it} \in M_N(\mathbb{C})$ .

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