Foundations of Quantum Mechanics

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Sheet 1

SS 2019

Due: Mon., 15.04.2019

Exercise 3: Time evolution (3+2)

- a) Consider a two-level system that evolves under the Hamiltonian $H = \hbar \omega \sigma_z$, with $\omega \in \mathbb{R}$. Let $\sigma_x, \sigma_y, \sigma_z$ denote the Pauli matrices. At time t_0 the system is in the state $|\psi(t_0)\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|0\rangle + |1\rangle)$. Calculate the state of the system at time $t \geq t_0$.
- b) Calculate the expectation values of σ_x und σ_z at time t.

Exercise 4: Measurements and expectation values (3+2)

a) Calculate eigenvectors und eigenvalues of the following observable

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(\alpha) & -i\sin(\alpha) & 0\\ i\sin(\alpha) & -\cos(\alpha) & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$
 (1)

by writing A in its spectral decomposition $(A = \sum_i \alpha_i |a_i\rangle\langle a_i| \text{ and } \langle a_i|a_j\rangle = \delta_{ij}).$

b) The observable A is being measured on a system in the state $|\psi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}(|0\rangle + |1\rangle + |2\rangle)$. Calculate the probabilities for the different outcomes and the expectation value of A.

Please turn!

Exercise 5: The tetrahedral POVM

The tetrahedral POVM is specified by the following unit vectors:

$$\mathbf{n}_{1} = (0, 0, 1)^{T},$$

$$\mathbf{n}_{2} = \left(\frac{2\sqrt{2}}{3}, 0, -\frac{1}{3}\right)^{T},$$

$$\mathbf{n}_{3} = \left(-\frac{\sqrt{2}}{3}, \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}, -\frac{1}{3}\right)^{T},$$

$$\mathbf{n}_{4} = \left(-\frac{\sqrt{2}}{3}, -\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}, -\frac{1}{3}\right)^{T}.$$

The POVM elements E_i $(i=1,\ldots,4)$ are given by $E_i = \frac{1}{4}(\mathbb{1} + \boldsymbol{n}_i \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma})$, where $\boldsymbol{\sigma} = (\sigma_x, \sigma_y, \sigma_z)^T$.

- a) Determine the effects E_i of the tetrahedral POVM.
- b) Show that this is in fact a valid POVM.
- c) Calculate the Naimark dilation of the tetrahedral POVM.