

INF587 Exercise sheet 2

Exercise 1. Show that a normal operator/matrix is

1. Hermitian if and only if it has real eigenvalues,
2. Positive if and only if it has positive eigenvalues.

Exercise 2. Let \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B} be $\mathcal{P} \in \{\text{Normal, Unitary, Hermitian, Projector, Positive}\}$. Show that $\mathbf{A} \otimes \mathbf{B}$ is \mathcal{P} .

Exercise 3 (Exponential of Pauli matrices). Compute

$$\exp(\theta \mathbf{X})$$

Let $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^3$ with Euclidean norm 1 and $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$. Show that

$$\exp(i\theta \mathbf{v} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}) = \cos(\theta) \mathbf{I}_2 + i \sin(\theta) \mathbf{v} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}$$

where $\mathbf{v} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{i=1}^3 v_i \sigma_i = v_1 \mathbf{X} + v_2 \mathbf{Y} + v_3 \mathbf{Z}$.

Hint: compute $(\mathbf{v} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma})^2$.

Exercise 4 (Some projective measurements for qubits).

1. Show that \mathbf{X} , \mathbf{Y} and \mathbf{Z} are Hermitian and give their spectral decomposition in an orthonormal basis (eigenvalues with associated unit eigenvectors)
2. Suppose that we have a qubit in the state $|0\rangle$, and we measure the observable \mathbf{X} . What is the average value of \mathbf{X} ? What is the standard deviation for \mathbf{X} ?
3. Show that the average value of the observable $\mathbf{X} \otimes \mathbf{Z}$ for a two qubits system measured in the state $\frac{|00\rangle + |11\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}$ is zero.
4. Show that $\mathbf{v} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}$ (see Exercise 3) has eigenvalues ± 1 and that the projectors onto the corresponding eigenspaces are given by $\mathbf{P}_{\pm 1} = \frac{(\mathbf{I}_2 \pm \mathbf{v} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma})}{2}$.

5. Calculate the probability of obtaining the result $+1$ for a measurement of $\mathbf{v} \cdot \sigma$ given that the state prior to measurement is $|0\rangle$. What is the state of the system after the measurement if $+1$ is obtained?

Exercise 5 (About the POVM formalism).

1. Prove that no quantum measurement are capable of distinguishing non-orthogonal states.
- 2*. Give a POVM $(\mathbf{E}_1, \mathbf{E}_2, \mathbf{E}_3)$ that never makes error to distinguish the following quantum states:

$$|\psi_1\rangle = |0\rangle \quad \text{and} \quad |\psi_2\rangle = \frac{|0\rangle + |1\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} = |+\rangle$$

Exercise 6 (projective measurements versus quantum measurements). *Our aim in this exercise is to show that projective measurements together with unitary dynamics are sufficient to implement a general measurement. The rough idea is “to increase the dimension”.*

Let $(\mathbf{M}_m)_{m \in \mathcal{M}}$ be a quantum measurement that we want to perform on a state space Q . Notice that possible outcomes form a (finite) set \mathcal{M} .

Let M be an ancilla system with dimension $\sharp \mathcal{M}$. Let $(|m\rangle)_{m \in \mathcal{M}}$ be an orthonormal basis of M .

1. Let \mathbf{U} be the following operator on $Q \otimes M$ (not linear as not defined over the whole space):

$$\mathbf{U} : |\psi\rangle |0\rangle \in Q \otimes M \mapsto \sum_m \mathbf{M}_m |\psi\rangle |m\rangle$$

Show that:

$$\langle \varphi | \langle 0 | \mathbf{U}^\dagger \mathbf{U} |\psi\rangle |0\rangle = \langle \varphi | \psi \rangle$$

2. Show that \mathbf{U} can be extended as a unitary operator on the space $Q \otimes M$.
3. Let $\mathbf{P}_m \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbf{I}_Q \otimes |m\rangle\langle m|$. Show that $(\mathbf{P}_m)_{m \in \mathcal{M}}$ is a projective measurement. In particular, given $\mathbf{U} |\psi\rangle |0\rangle$, what is the probability to outcome m ? What becomes the $\mathbf{U} |\psi\rangle |0\rangle$ after measuring m ?
4. Conclude.

Exercise 7 (On Pauli matrices).

1. Let $\mathbf{M} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & x \\ y & 0 \end{pmatrix}$. Show that it exists $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{C}$ such that $\mathbf{M} = \alpha\mathbf{X} + \beta\mathbf{Y}$.
2. Let \mathbf{M} be any 2×2 complex matrix. Show that it exists $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta \in \mathbb{C}$ such that $\mathbf{M} = \alpha\mathbf{I}_2 + \beta\mathbf{X} + \gamma\mathbf{Y} + \delta\mathbf{Z}$.
3. Compute \mathbf{XZ}, \mathbf{XY} and \mathbf{YZ} . Let $\mathbf{P}_1, \mathbf{P}_2 \in \{\mathbf{I}_2, \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{Z}\}$. Show that $\text{tr}(\mathbf{P}_1\mathbf{P}_2) = 0$ if $\mathbf{P}_1 \neq \mathbf{P}_2$ and $\text{tr}(\mathbf{P}_1\mathbf{P}_2) = 2$ if $\mathbf{P}_1 = \mathbf{P}_2$.
4. Let \mathbf{U} be any unitary matrix on 1 qubit. We can hence write $\mathbf{U} = \alpha\mathbf{I} + \beta\mathbf{X} + \gamma\mathbf{Y} + \delta\mathbf{Z}$. Show that

$$|\alpha|^2 + |\beta|^2 + |\gamma|^2 + |\delta|^2 = 1.$$

Exercise 8 (Heisenberg uncertainty principle). Given two Hermitian operators \mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B} we define

$$[\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}] \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbf{AB} - \mathbf{BA} \quad (\text{commutator}) \quad \text{and} \quad \{\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}\} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbf{AB} + \mathbf{BA} \quad (\text{anti-commutator})$$

1. Show that

$$|\langle \psi | [\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}] | \psi \rangle|^2 + |\langle \psi | \{\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}\} | \psi \rangle|^2 = 4 |\langle \psi | \mathbf{AB} | \psi \rangle|^2$$

Deduce that

$$|\langle \psi | [\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}] | \psi \rangle|^2 \leq 4 \langle \psi | \mathbf{A}^2 | \psi \rangle \langle \psi | \mathbf{B}^2 | \psi \rangle$$

2. Show that for two measurables \mathbf{C} and \mathbf{D} we have (Heisenberg uncertainty principle)

$$\Delta(\mathbf{C}) \Delta(\mathbf{D}) \geq \frac{|\langle \psi | [\mathbf{C}, \mathbf{D}] | \psi \rangle|}{2}$$

What is your interpretation of this inequation?

3. \mathbf{X} and \mathbf{Y} are two measurables. What are their outcomes? What does the uncertainty principle tells with these measurables when measured for the quantum state $|0\rangle$?