

# Bras, Kets and Dirac-Delta

Oskar Idland

# 1 Inner Product

There are many ways to write the inner product

- I.

$$(|u\rangle, |v\rangle) = (|v\rangle, |u\rangle)^*$$

- II. Second linearity makes first linearity impossible.

$$(|u\rangle, \alpha |v_1\rangle + \beta |v_2\rangle) = \alpha (|u\rangle, |v_1\rangle) + \beta (|u\rangle, |v_2\rangle)$$

- III.

$$(\alpha |v_1\rangle + \beta |v_2\rangle, |u\rangle) = \alpha^* (|v_1\rangle, |u\rangle) + \beta^* (|v_2\rangle, |u\rangle)$$

- IV.

$$\underbrace{(|v\rangle, |v\rangle)}_{\mathbb{R}} \geq 0$$

## 1.1 Dirac Notation

We denote the inner product like this in Dirac-notation.

$$(|u\rangle, |v\rangle) = \langle u|v\rangle \in \mathbb{C}$$

- I

$$\langle u|v\rangle = (\langle v|u\rangle)^*$$

- II

$$|v'\rangle = \alpha |v_1\rangle + \beta |v_2\rangle$$

- III

$$\langle v|v\rangle \geq 0$$

## 1.2 Representation of Bras

The bra can be written as an operator operating on a ket, producing a number

$$\langle A| \simeq \int dx A^*(x)$$

$$\langle A|B\rangle = \int dx A^*(x)B(x)$$

$$\langle B|A\rangle = \int dx B^*(x)A(x)$$

# 2 Sets of Kets

this is a ket  $|u\rangle$

### 3 Discrete and Continuous Basis

#### 3.1 Discrete

$$|f\rangle = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} f_i |i\rangle$$

For orthonormal basis

$$\langle i|j\rangle = \delta_{ij} \rightarrow f_j = \langle j|f\rangle$$

#### 3.2 Continuous

$$|f\rangle = \int_0^L f(x') |x'\rangle \, dx$$
$$\langle x|f\rangle = f(x)$$

$$\langle x|f\rangle = \int_0^L \langle x|f(x)|x'\rangle \, dx = \int_0^L f(x) \underbrace{\langle x|x'\rangle}_{\delta} \, dx = f(x)$$

In a short interval  $[-\epsilon, \epsilon]$  the function  $f$  becomes approximately constant. Using the definition of the Dirac-delta we get the following

$$\lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{-\epsilon}^{\epsilon} f(x) \delta(x - x') \, dx = f(x) \underbrace{\lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{-\epsilon}^{\epsilon} \delta(x - x') \, dx}_1 = f(x)$$