Homework 2

Quantum Mechanics
January 27, 2023 C Seitz

Problem 1. *2.2*

Solution.
In general, the matrix representation of A in a basis $|i\rangle, |j\rangle$ is such that the matrix element is $A_{ij} = \langle i| A |j\rangle$. Therefore, in the input basis, the matrix representation of A is

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} \langle 0| A |0\rangle & \langle 0| A |1\rangle \\ \langle 1| A |0\rangle & \langle 1| A |1\rangle \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

In the output basis

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} \langle 0| A |0\rangle & \langle 0| A |1\rangle \\ \langle 1| A |0\rangle & \langle 1| A |1\rangle \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

We can choose a different basis, say $|+\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|0\rangle + |1\rangle), |-\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|0\rangle - |1\rangle)$.

$$U = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

In this basis A takes the form:

$$A' = UA = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

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Problem 2. *2.9*

Solution.

$$\begin{aligned}
\sigma_z &= |1\rangle\langle 1| - |0\rangle\langle 0| \\
\sigma_x &= |1\rangle\langle 0| + |0\rangle\langle 1| \\
\sigma_y &= i\,|0\rangle\langle 1| - i\,|1\rangle\langle 0|
\end{aligned}$$

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Problem 3. *2.12*

Solution. A matrix is diagonalizable if and only if the algebraic multiplicity equals the geometric multiplicity of each eigenvalue. It is easy to show that the characteristic equation here is $(1-\lambda)^2 = 0$ which only has one solution.

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Problem 4. *2.17*

Solution.

If H is normal, it must be diagonalizable and has the eigendecomposition

$$H = U\Lambda U^\dagger$$

where U is some unitary matrix. The conjugate transpose is

$$H^\dagger = U^\dagger \Lambda^\dagger U$$

If $H = H^\dagger$, and Λ is diagonal, then

$$U^\dagger \Lambda^\dagger U = U\Lambda U^\dagger$$

which means $\Lambda = \Lambda^\dagger$ i.e. the eigenvalues are real. Furthermore, if Λ is diagonal and purely real, then clearly $H = H^\dagger$.

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Problem 5. *2.18*

Solution. For a unitary matrix $U^\dagger U = I$, so for an eigenvector $|\alpha\rangle$,

$$\langle\alpha| U^\dagger U |\alpha\rangle = \langle\alpha| I |\alpha\rangle = 1$$

and $\langle\alpha| U^\dagger U |\alpha\rangle = \lambda^*\lambda$, so $\lambda^*\lambda = 1$. ■

Problem 6. *2.24*

Solution. ■