

KMS states and Tomita-Takesaki Theory

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Chapter 1

Introduction

Chapter 2

Classical and Quantum Mechanics as Probability Theories

This chapter shows how both classical and quantum mechanics are probability theories. This is not intended as an axiomatization of these theories. Indeed the reader is assumed to be comfortable with these physical theories as well as the basic mathematical concepts of measure theory and functional analysis.

2.1 Classical Mechanics

The setting of classical mechanics is usually a locally compact Hausdorff space X . We consider the states of maximal knowledge (or pure states) to be the elements of X . Likewise, observables take the form of functions on X . We call the points of X states of maximal knowledge because we interpret $f(p)$ as the value of the observable f in the state $p \in X$. Moreover, given that in principle we could make the value of an observable as precise as we want by improving our knowledge of the state, observables are elements of the set of continuous functions $C(X)$ ¹. Nonetheless the purpose of statistical mechanics is to treat systems in which total knowledge of a state is not

¹It doesn't matter whether we consider them real or complex at this stage.

practically possible. Instead we consider a probability measure² which assigns to every measurable subset of X a probability of the system's state being in it. We may define the expected value of an observable $f \in C(X)$ through a probability measure P by

$$\langle f \rangle_P = \int f dP. \quad (2.1)$$

Notice that an element $p \in X$ can also be thought as a probability measure by using the Dirac measure δ_p which assigns 1 to a set if it contains p and 0 otherwise. Indeed for every element $p \in X$ and observable $f \in C(X)$ we have $\langle f \rangle_{\delta_p} = f(p)$. This motivates us to broaden the definition of states to the probability measures on X . We will call Dirac measures (or equivalently the points in X) pure states.

This definition of state proves to be very helpful for the discussion of ensembles. Whenever the description of the state of a system as a pure state is not feasible, we may consider the set of outcomes Y of measurements we may perform on the system. Every element of Y gives us information of the system in the form of a finite measure. We may define an ensemble as the mapping from Y into the set of finite measures on X . Through normalization of finite measures every ensemble yields a mapping from Y into the set of states and we define the accessible (pure) states of an element $y \in Y$ to be the support of the corresponding state. Although the construction of an ensemble is in general a difficult task, for systems in statistical equilibrium³ there are many standard procedures. In the case of these type of systems we define the partition function $Z : Y \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_0^+$ by assigning to every element y the measure of X given by the ensemble evaluated at y .

Example 2.1.1. In many physical systems the space of pure states has a natural notion of size which we may represent by giving it the structure of a measure space (X, \mathcal{A}, μ) where \mathcal{A} contains the Borel σ -algebra⁴. We may consider $Y = \mathbb{R}$ to be the set of energy outcomes. If $H : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a

²Along with a σ -algebra which we won't mention explicitly to keep the notation simple but should always be kept in mind.

³These are systems whose state does not change in time. We refer to the equilibrium as statistical because it may be that the pure state of the system is changing in time but noticing these changes is not feasible for us.

⁴Usually we take a countable set with the counting measure but another example would be a phase space with the Liouville measure. In the latter, it is common that $H^{-1}(y)$ is a set of measure zero so we actually have to take $X = H^{-1}(y)$ with the appropriate induced measure.

measurable function taking the interpretation of energy we define the microcanonical ensemble to be the mapping $y \mapsto \mu_y$ where $\mu_y(\Sigma) = \mu(\Sigma \cap H^{-1}(y))$ for all measurable Σ . The set $H^{-1}(y)$ is the set of accessible states and $\mu_y(\Sigma)$ measures the amount of pure states in Σ which are accessible. Notice that the normalization of μ_y yields a state P_y which assigns a uniform probability measure to X . This is called the equal a priori probabilities postulate. In this ensemble the partition function $Z(y) = \mu_y(X) = \mu(H^{-1}(y))$ is just the amount of accessible states. This ensemble is usually used to describe systems with constant energy and a fixed number of particles.

Example 2.1.2. Consider again a measure space (X, \mathcal{A}, μ) but let $Y = \mathbb{R}^+$ be the set of inverse temperatures of the system. If we have an energy function $H : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that $x \mapsto \exp(-yH(x))$ is integrable for all $y \in Y$ the canonical ensemble assigns to every inverse temperature y a finite measure μ_y by

$$\mu_y(\Sigma) = \int_{\Sigma} e^{-yH(x)} d\mu(x) \quad (2.2)$$

for all measurable sets Σ . This ensemble is usually used to describe systems with a fixed number of particles in thermal equilibrium with a heat bath. Note that we could add to the description of the system the heat bath and we would be able to in principle use the microcanonical ensemble. The difficulty lies in that generally the counting of accessible states is more difficult than the application of the canonical ensemble.

Note that both of the ensembles discussed have images consisting of absolutely continuous measures μ_y with respect to the notion of size μ . The same is true for the induced states P_y . Moreover the Lebesgue-Radon-Nikodým derivative exists and we define the entropy of the ensemble in the state P_y by⁵

$$S(P_y) = - \int_{\text{supp}(P_y)} \log \left(\frac{dP_y}{d\mu} \right) \frac{dP_y}{d\mu} d\mu. \quad (2.3)$$

One can check that in the microcanonical ensemble

$$\frac{dP_y}{d\mu}(x) = \frac{\chi_{H^{-1}(y)}(x)}{Z(y)} \quad (2.4)$$

⁵In general if we start from a decomposable (X, \mathcal{A}, μ) and have an ensemble which yields absolutely continuous measures with respect to μ we can define entropy in this fashion. In particular, if μ comes from the Daniell extension of a positive linear functional the space is decomposable.

and in the canonical ensemble

$$\frac{dP_y}{d\mu}(x) = \frac{\exp(-yH(x))}{Z(y)}. \quad (2.5)$$

In the case we have a state of maximal knowledge δ_p we may collapse X to $(\{p\}, \{\{p\}, \emptyset\}, \delta_p)$ and define an ensemble $y \mapsto \delta_p$. Such an ensemble has zero entropy.

2.2 Quantum Mechanics

The setting of quantum mechanics is a separable Hilbert space \mathcal{H} . In this case the states are the non-negative self-adjoint operators of unit trace on \mathcal{H} (called density operators) and observables take the form of self-adjoint operators on \mathcal{H} . The possible outcomes of an observable A are the elements of its spectrum and, if P_A is the unique projection-valued measure such that $A = \int id_{\mathbb{R}} dP_A$ given by the spectral theorem, we have that the probability of the measurement of the observable A yielding a value in the measurable subset $E \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ in the state ρ is $tr(P_A(E)\rho)$. One can check that given this way of measuring probabilities we have that the expected value of an observable A in the state ρ is

$$\langle A \rangle_\rho = tr(A\rho). \quad (2.6)$$

Moreover we define the entropy of a state ρ to be

$$S(\rho) = -tr(\log(\rho)\rho). \quad (2.7)$$

Inspired by the classical case we define a pure state ρ_ψ to be orthogonal projection on the span of ψ for $\psi \in \mathcal{H}$ of unit norm. Although such a state has null entropy as in the classical case

$$S(\rho_\psi) = -tr(\log(\rho_\psi)\rho_\psi) = -\langle \psi, \log(1)\psi \rangle = 0, \quad (2.8)$$

we can't in general associate to an observable A a definite outcome unless ψ is an eigenvector of A corresponding to an eigenvalue λ where we have

$$tr(P_A(\{\lambda\})\rho_\psi) = \langle \psi, P_A(\{\lambda\})\psi \rangle = \langle \psi, \psi \rangle = \|\psi\|^2 = 1. \quad (2.9)$$

Notice that we haven't inspired the definition of a state like we did in the classical case. The connection between states and probability is given through the study of quantum logic in the next chapter.

Chapter 3

Quantum Probability

The previous chapter showed that there is a dictionary to understand in a very similar language quantum and classical theories. Before we develop the language of operator algebras to make this similarity more concrete we will first show how this two theories are different. To do this we will study the logical structure of quantum mechanics and show that it isn't boolean.

3.1 EPR paradox

Einstein, Podolsky and Rosen examined the completeness of quantum mechanics in their famous 1935 paper [1]. They considered that an element of physical reality was one whose outcome in a measurement could be predicted without actually performing the experiment. They defined that a physical theory was complete if to every element of physical reality there corresponded an object in the theory. One can prove that in quantum mechanics two observables A and B ¹ satisfy for every state ρ the Heisenberg uncertainty relation

$$\Delta_\rho A \Delta_\rho B \geq \frac{1}{2} |\langle [A, B] \rangle_\rho| \quad (3.1)$$

where $[A, B] = AB - BA$ is the commutator and $\Delta_\rho A = \sqrt{\langle A^2 \rangle - \langle A \rangle^2}$. Therefore either quantum mechanics is incomplete or two non-commuting observables cannot have a simultaneous physical reality. Assuming that

¹We will assume them to be bounded to avoid technical difficulties since our example will be finite dimensional.

quantum mechanics is indeed complete we are forced to accept that two non-commuting observables don't have a simultaneous physical reality.

Example 3.1.1. To describe the polarization of a photon we may consider the Hilbert space \mathbb{C}^2 . We assign to the proposition “*the photon is linearly polarized at an angle θ (1 means that this is the case and 0 that it isn't)*” the operator $P(\theta)$ the orthogonal projection to the span of

$$|\theta\rangle = \cos(\theta)(1, 0) + \sin(\theta)(0, 1). \quad (3.2)$$

Therefore the vector $|\theta\rangle$ takes the interpretation the state in which the photon is certain to have linear polarization at angle θ . Now consider a system with two photons in a state ρ_ψ where

$$\psi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|0\rangle \otimes |\pi/2\rangle - |\pi/2\rangle \otimes |0\rangle). \quad (3.3)$$

We may prepare such a system by allowing a Calcium atom to decay into two photons and waiting till the photons are far apart. It's easy to see that

$$\psi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|\pi/4\rangle \otimes |3\pi/4\rangle - |3\pi/4\rangle \otimes |\pi/4\rangle). \quad (3.4)$$

Therefore if we measure that the first photon has horizontal polarization we know the second one has a vertical polarization and if we measure that the first one has a polarization at an angle $\pi/4$ we know the second one has an angle of $3\pi/4$. But since the photons are far apart, measurements on the first one cannot affect the second one. Therefore both states $|\pi/2\rangle$ and $|3\pi/4\rangle$ describe the same physical reality and we are forced to conclude that $P(\pi/2)$ and $P(3\pi/4)$ have simultaneous realities. Nonetheless since $|\pi/2\rangle$ is not orthogonal to $|3\pi/4\rangle$ the two projections don't commute arriving to a contradiction.

Contradictions of the type shown above due to the use of coupled systems are often referred to nowadays as the EPR paradox. They led to the notion of entanglement. We are therefore, subject to the definitions given in the paper [1] forced to the conclusion that quantum theory must be an incomplete theory.

3.2 Logic and Bell's inequalities

We may continue EPR's agenda and try to find a complete theory of physical reality. In such a theory (much like in every physical theory) we must be able to ask true or false questions about a physical system. Studying these questions gives us an excuse to begin the discussion of logic theory. Although previous knowledge of logic is not essential, we will use our experience from classical logic to inspire the definitions we will use.

Definition 3.2.1. An order relation on a set P is a relation \leq on X which satisfies for all $p, q, r \in P$:

- reflexivity: $p \leq p$;
- antisymmetry: $p \leq q$ and $q \leq p$ implies $p = q$;
- transitivity: $p \leq q$ and $q \leq r$ implies $p \leq r$.

The pair (P, \leq) is called a partially ordered set or poset.

We may recognize these laws if we exchange the symbols \leq for the implication symbol \implies as rules propositions evidently follow. Much like in this case, the rest of the definitions ahead will have a counterpart in propositional logic and are intended as an extension of it.

Definition 3.2.2. Let (P, \leq) be a poset and $A \subseteq P$. A lower (upper) bound of A is an element $p \in P$ such that for all $a \in A$ we have $p \leq a$ ($a \leq p$). An infimum (supremum) of A is a lower (upper) bound p of A such that if $r \in P$ is a lower (upper) bound of A then $r \leq p$ ($p \leq r$).

Once again, through the symbol exchange made earlier we may note that the conjunction of two propositions $p \wedge q$ is the infimum of $\{p, q\}$ and the disjunction $p \vee q$ is the supremum of $\{p, q\}$. The infimum and supremum are closely related and we will in general carry the discussion only for the infimum leaving the details of the supremum in parenthesis just as we did in the previous definition.

Theorem 3.2.1. Let (P, \leq) be a poset and $A \subseteq P$ such that its infimum (supremum) exists. Then the infimum (supremum) is unique.

Proof. Suppose p and q are infima (suprema) of A . Then since p is a lower (upper) bound we have $p \leq q$ ($q \leq p$). Similarly, since q is a lower (upper) bound $q \leq p$ ($p \leq q$). Therefore by antisymmetry $p = q$. \square

Notation 3.2.1. Let (P, \leq) be a poset and $A \subseteq P$ such that its infimum (supremum) exists. We denote the infimum (supremum) of A by $\bigwedge A$ ($\bigvee A$). If $A = \{p, q\}$ then we denote $p \wedge q := \bigwedge A$ ($p \vee q := \bigvee A$). As is common in logic literature we will now use for infimum (supremum) the term meet (join).

Now we shall list some of the algebraic properties of posets.

Theorem 3.2.2. Let (P, \leq) be a poset. Then for all $p, q, r \in P$:

1. $p \leq q$ if and only if $p = p \wedge q$ if and only if $q = p \vee q$;
2. (idempotency) $p \wedge p = p$ and $p \vee p = p$;
3. (associativity) if the meet (join) of $\{p, q\}$, $\{q, r\}$, $\{p \wedge q, r\}$ ($\{p \vee q, r\}$), $\{p, q \wedge r\}$ ($\{p, q \vee r\}$) and $\{p, q, r\}$ exists then $(p \wedge q) \wedge r = p \wedge (q \wedge r) = \bigwedge \{p, q, r\}$ ($(p \vee q) \vee r = p \vee (q \vee r) = \bigvee \{p, q, r\}$);
4. (commutativity) if the meet (join) of $\{p, q\}$ exists then $p \wedge q = q \wedge p$ ($p \vee q = q \vee p$).

Proof. All of the statements are clear from the definitions. □

All of these properties are familiar from propositional logic. Nevertheless, there are some properties of basic logic which we cannot prove with the definitions above and need to be added as additional properties of posets.

Definition 3.2.3. • A poset (P, \leq) is said to be a lattice if for every $p, q \in P$ there exists $p \wedge q$ and $p \vee q$.

- A lattice (L, \leq) is said to be complete if for every $A \subseteq L$ there exists $\bigwedge A$ and $\bigvee A$.
- A lattice (L, \leq) is said to be distributive if for every $p, q, r \in L$ we have $p \wedge (q \vee r) = (p \wedge q) \vee (p \wedge r)$ and $p \vee (q \wedge r) = (p \vee q) \wedge (p \vee r)$.
- A poset (P, \leq) is said to be bounded if there exists $0 := \bigwedge P$ and $1 := \bigvee P$.
- A complement of an element $p \in P$ of a bounded poset (P, \leq) is an element $q \in P$ such that $p \wedge q = 0$ and $p \vee q = 1$.

- A Boolean algebra is a distributive bounded lattice in which every element has a complement.

Comparison with propositional logic shows that we usually equip propositions with the structure of a Boolean algebra. In this case complements take the interpretation of negation and are unique due to the following theorem.

Theorem 3.2.3. In a distributive bounded lattice (L, \leq) elements have at most one complement.

Proof. Suppose q and r are complements of $p \in L$. Then

$$q = q \wedge 1 = q \wedge (p \vee r) = (q \wedge p) \vee (q \wedge r) = 0 \vee (q \wedge r) = q \wedge r \quad (3.5)$$

and therefore $q \leq r$. Exchanging the roles of q and r one finds that $r \leq q$ and therefore by antisymmetry $q = r$. \square

Now, we ask that the set of propositions in a complete theory of physical reality has the structure of classical propositions, that is of a Boolean algebra. Denoting the complement of a proposition p by p' we may consider the following logical function

$$f(p, q) = (p \wedge q) \vee (p' \wedge q'). \quad (3.6)$$

With the help of the algebraic properties of this structure given in theorem 3.2.2 we find that for all propositions p_1, p_2, q_1 and q_2

$$\begin{aligned}
& f(p_1, q_1) \wedge (f(p_1, q_2) \vee f(p_2, q_2) \vee f(p_2, q_1)) = \\
& \quad ((p_1 \wedge q_1) \vee (p'_1 \wedge q'_1)) \wedge \\
& \quad ((p_1 \wedge q_2) \vee (p'_1 \wedge q'_2) \vee (p_2 \wedge q_2) \vee \\
& \quad (p'_2 \wedge q'_2) \vee (p_2 \wedge q_1) \vee (p'_2 \wedge q'_1)) = \quad (\text{distributivity}) \\
& (p_1 \wedge q_1 \wedge p_1 \wedge q_2) \vee (p_1 \wedge q_1 \wedge p'_1 \wedge q'_2) \vee \\
& (p_1 \wedge q_1 \wedge p_2 \wedge q_2) \vee (p_1 \wedge q_1 \wedge p'_2 \wedge q'_2) \vee \\
& (p_1 \wedge q_1 \wedge p_2 \wedge q_1) \vee (p_1 \wedge q_1 \wedge p'_2 \wedge q'_1) \vee \\
& (p'_1 \wedge q'_1 \wedge p_1 \wedge q_2) \vee (p'_1 \wedge q'_1 \wedge p'_1 \wedge q'_2) \vee \\
& (p'_1 \wedge q'_1 \wedge p_2 \wedge q_2) \vee (p'_1 \wedge q'_1 \wedge p'_2 \wedge q'_2) \vee \\
& (p'_1 \wedge q'_1 \wedge p_2 \wedge q_1) \vee (p'_1 \wedge q'_1 \wedge p'_2 \wedge q'_1) = \quad (\text{commutativity, idempotency, complements}) \\
& \quad (p_1 \wedge q_1 \wedge q_2) \vee 0 \vee \\
& (p_1 \wedge q_1 \wedge p_2 \wedge q_2) \vee (p_1 \wedge q_1 \wedge p'_2 \wedge q'_2) \vee \\
& \quad (p_1 \wedge q_1 \wedge p_2) \vee 0 \vee \\
& \quad 0 \vee (p'_1 \wedge q'_1 \wedge q'_2) \vee \\
& (p'_1 \wedge q'_1 \wedge p_2 \wedge q_2) \vee (p'_1 \wedge q'_1 \wedge p'_2 \wedge q'_2) \vee \\
& \quad 0 \vee (p'_1 \wedge q'_1 \wedge p'_2) = \quad (3.7) \\
& (p_1 \wedge q_1 \wedge q_2) \vee (p_1 \wedge q_1 \wedge p_2 \wedge q_2) \vee \\
& (p_1 \wedge q_1 \wedge p'_2 \wedge q'_2) \vee (p_1 \wedge q_1 \wedge p_2) \vee \\
& (p'_1 \wedge q'_1 \wedge q'_2) \vee (p'_1 \wedge q'_1 \wedge p_2 \wedge q_2) \vee \\
& (p'_1 \wedge q'_1 \wedge p'_2 \wedge q'_2) \vee (p'_1 \wedge q'_1 \wedge p'_2) = \quad (\text{distributivity}) \\
& \quad (p_1 \wedge ((q_1 \wedge q_2) \vee (q_1 \wedge p_2 \wedge q_2) \vee \\
& \quad (q_1 \wedge p'_2 \wedge q'_2) \vee (q_1 \wedge p_2))) \vee \\
& \quad (p'_1 \wedge ((q'_1 \wedge q'_2) \vee (q'_1 \wedge p_2 \wedge q_2) \vee \\
& \quad (q'_1 \wedge p'_2 \wedge q'_2) \vee (q'_1 \wedge p'_2))) = \quad (\text{distributivity}) \\
& (p_1 \wedge ((q_1 \wedge q_2) \vee (q_1 \wedge ((p'_2 \wedge q'_2) \vee p_2)))) \vee \\
& (p'_1 \wedge ((q'_1 \wedge q'_2) \vee (q'_1 \wedge ((p_2 \wedge q_2) \vee p'_2)))) = \quad (\text{distributivity}) \\
& \quad (p_1 \wedge q_1 \wedge (q_2 \vee (p'_2 \wedge q'_2) \vee p_2)) \vee \\
& \quad (p'_1 \wedge q'_1 \wedge (q'_2 \vee (p_2 \wedge q_2) \vee p'_2)) = \\
& \quad (p_1 \wedge q_1 \wedge ((q_2 \vee p_2) \vee (q_2 \vee p_2)')) \vee \\
& \quad (p'_1 \wedge q'_1 \wedge ((p_2 \wedge q_2)' \vee (p_2 \wedge q_2))) = \\
& \quad (p_1 \wedge q_1 \wedge 1) \vee (p'_1 \wedge q'_1 \wedge 1) = (p_1 \wedge q_1) \vee (p'_1 \wedge q'_1) = f(p_1, q_1),
\end{aligned}$$

from which we conclude

$$f(p_1, q_1) \leq f(p_1, q_2) \vee f(p_2, q_2) \vee f(p_2, q_1). \quad (3.8)$$

Following Jaynes [2] we may assign to every proposition p a degree of plausibility $P(p) \in \mathbb{R}$. Every sensible way of assigning such degrees of plausibility must be such that if $p \leq q$ then $P(p) \leq P(q)$. Therefore we find what we will call Bell's inequalities

$$P(f(p_1, q_1)) \leq P(f(p_1, q_2) \vee f(p_2, q_2) \vee f(p_2, q_1)). \quad (3.9)$$

In order to study this inequalities in the setting of quantum mechanics, we must first explain how this machinery applies in the case of the theory.

3.3 Quantum Logic

To study the logical structure of quantum mechanics we first discuss the notion of proposition in the theory. Since propositions have to be observables with two possible outcomes “true” or “false”, we identify them with the self-adjoints whose spectrum is $\{0, 1\}$. These are precisely the orthogonal projections on a Hilbert space \mathcal{H} .

Theorem 3.3.1. Every closed subspace of \mathcal{H} is the image of an orthogonal projection. Conversely, the image of every orthogonal projection is closed.

Proof. Let $V \subseteq \mathcal{H}$ be a closed subspace. By the Orthogonal Decomposition Theorem we have $\mathcal{H} = V \oplus V^\perp$. Therefore take the orthogonal projection $\psi \mapsto \xi$ where ξ is the unique element of V such that there exists a $\zeta \in V^\perp$ such that $\psi = \xi + \zeta$. Let P be an orthogonal projection. Then $P(\mathcal{H}) = (\ker P)^\perp$ and, since every orthogonal complement is closed, $P(\mathcal{H})$ is closed. \square

Therefore we see that the set of propositions can also be identified with the closed subspaces of \mathcal{H} . From now on we won't make a distinction between quantum propositions, orthogonal projections and closed subspaces and we will denote such an identification by $L(\mathcal{H})$. Both of these identifications will help us endow the quantum mechanical propositions with a logical structure.

Theorem 3.3.2. The set of closed subspaces of a Hilbert space \mathcal{H} is naturally a poset when equipped with the relation of set inclusion. This is of bounded by $\{0\}$ and \mathcal{H} . Moreover, it is a lattice where for every family of closed subspaces \mathcal{C} we have $\bigwedge \mathcal{C} = \bigcap \mathcal{C}$ and $\bigvee \mathcal{C} = \overline{\text{span}(\bigcup \mathcal{C})}$.

Proof. Note that if X is a set then $(P(X), \subseteq)$ is a poset and for every $A \subseteq P(X)$ it remains true that (A, \subseteq) is a poset. The case of closed subspaces of a Hilbert space is a special case of this. Moreover, recall that in $(P(X), \subseteq)$ we have for $\mathcal{A} \in X$ that $\bigwedge \mathcal{A} = \bigcap \mathcal{A}$ and since intersection of closed subspaces is a closed subspace, this remains true for our case of interest. Similarly $\bigvee \mathcal{A} = \bigcup \mathcal{A}$. But in general the union of subspaces is not a subspace. Nevertheless, the smallest subspace that contains a subset is its span. But we may still run into trouble because the span may not be closed. We can solve this by noticing that the smallest closed set that contains a subset is its closure, yielding the formula for the join in the theorem. Finally it is clear that application of the formulas for the meet and join yield $0 = \{0\}$ and $1 = \mathcal{H}$. \square

In particular, in the case of two propositions P and Q that commute as projections, the projection onto the intersection of P and Q is given by the multiplication of the projections PQ . We can also see that we may interpret the expectation value of a proposition P as the degree of plausibility. Now, given that quantum mechanics seems to correctly predict the behavior of light polarization, we may go back to our previous example and test Bell's inequalities.

Example 3.3.1. Following up on example 3.1.1 suppose $P_A(\theta) = P(\theta) \otimes id_{\mathbb{C}^2}$ and $P_B(\theta) = id_{\mathbb{C}^2} \otimes P(\theta)$. This means that $P_A(\theta)$ measures on the first photon and $P_B(\theta)$ on the second. More precisely we may interpret $P_A(\theta)$ as the proposition “*the first photon has linear polarization at an angle θ* ” and $P_B(\theta)$ playing the analogue role for “*the second photon has linear polarization at an angle θ* ”. Therefore we find that the degree of plausibility for the proposition $P_A(\alpha) \wedge P_B(\beta) = P_A(\alpha)P_B(\beta)$ is

$$\begin{aligned}
tr(P_A(\alpha)P_B(\beta)\rho_\psi) &= \langle \psi, P_A(\alpha)P_B(\beta)\psi \rangle \\
&= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \langle \psi, P(\alpha)|0\rangle \otimes P(\beta)|\pi/2\rangle - P(\alpha)|\pi/2\rangle \otimes P(\beta)|0\rangle \rangle \\
&= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \langle \psi, \cos(\alpha)|\alpha\rangle \otimes \sin(\beta)|\beta\rangle - \sin(\alpha)|\alpha\rangle \otimes \cos(\beta)|\beta\rangle \rangle \\
&= \frac{1}{2} (\cos^2(\alpha) \sin^2(\beta) - 2 \cos(\alpha) \sin(\alpha) \sin(\beta) \cos(\beta)) + \sin^2(\alpha) \cos^2(\beta) \\
&= \frac{1}{2} (\cos(\alpha) \sin(\beta) - \sin(\alpha) \cos(\beta))^2 = \frac{1}{2} \sin^2(\alpha - \beta).
\end{aligned} \tag{3.10}$$

It is clear that setting $P_A(\theta)' := P_A(\theta + \pi/2)$ and $P_B(\theta)' := P_A(\theta + \pi/2)$ indeed yields complements according to theorem 3.3.2. With this, we find that $P(f(P_A(\alpha), P_B(\beta))) = \sin^2(\alpha - \beta)$. Therefore we obtain through Bell's inequalities

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= \sin^2(0 - \pi/2) = P(f(P_A(0), P_B(\pi/2))) \\ &\leq P(f(P_A(0), P_B(\pi/6))) + P(f(P_A(\pi/3), P_B(\pi/6))) + P(f(P_A(\pi/3), P_B(\pi/2))) \\ &= \sin^2(0 - \pi/6) + \sin^2(\pi/3 - \pi/6) + \sin^2(\pi/3 - \pi/2) = 3/4 \end{aligned} \quad (3.11)$$

which is clearly a contradiction.

We find thus through the contradiction between Bell's inequalities and experiment that we failed in our search of a complete theory of physics according to the definitions given by EPR. In his paper [3], Bell found his inequalities by assuming there was a hidden probability space (as in the classical case) from which we could assign degrees of plausibility to propositions. Of course such a view point falls within our discussion and makes it clear that there are no hidden variables. Nonetheless our exposition shows that the problem with the critique to quantum mechanics made by EPR lies in their definitions. Bell's inequalities show that no theory satisfying their requirements for completeness (which we interpreted as having a boolean logical structure) will ever be found. Moreover, our discussion yielded a clearer view on the root of the distinction between quantum mechanics and previous theories: *the logical structure*.

Notice now that in general a closed subspace of \mathcal{H} has many different complements. For example in \mathbb{C}^2 we have that $\text{span}(\{(\cos(\theta), \sin(\theta))\})$ is a complement of $\text{span}(\{(1, 0)\})$ for all $\theta \in (0, \pi)$. Therefore by theorem 3.2.3 the lattice of quantum propositions cannot be boolean. This explains the root of the contradiction in Bell's inequalities as well as the EPR paradox.

Finally, we would like to make use of the logical structure of quantum mechanics to explain the objects appearing in section 2.2. First of all, notice that the operator $P_A(E)$ corresponding to an observable A and a Borel set E is the orthogonal projection corresponding to the proposition “*measurement of the observable A yields a value in the Borel set E .*” Secondly, a reasonable way to define a state in quantum mechanics would be as a mapping that assigned to every proposition a degree of plausibility. Precisely,

Definition 3.3.1. A probability measure on the lattice of propositions $L(\mathcal{H})$ on a Hilbert space \mathcal{H} is a map $\mu : L(\mathcal{H}) \rightarrow [0, 1]$ such that $\mu(H) = 1$

and for every sequence (P_n) of pairwise orthogonal projections we have $\mu(\bigoplus_{n=0}^{\infty} P_n) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \mu(P_n)$.

To relate the definition above to the one we gave in section 2.2 we may note that for every density operator ρ on a Hilbert space \mathcal{H} the function $\mu_\rho : L(\mathcal{H}) \rightarrow [0, 1] : P \mapsto \text{tr}(P\rho)$ is a probability measure on $L(\mathcal{H})$. Conversely,

Theorem 3.3.3 (Gleason's Theorem). If \mathcal{H} is a Hilbert space with dimension greater than 2 then every probability measure on $L(\mathcal{H})$ is of the form μ_ρ for some density operator ρ on \mathcal{H} .

Chapter 4

Algebraic Structure of Mechanics

Now that we've understood classical and quantum mechanics as probability theories and displayed their differences, we will now concern ourselves with the development of algebraic methods that will allow us to describe both classical and quantum mechanics in the same framework and to discuss equilibrium further.

4.1 C*-algebras

We will start by getting acquainted with the notion of a C*-algebra. This is the mathematical structure we will endow our physical observables with. Even though the general need for this structure can be inspired by the abstract analysis of experimental apparatuses[4] we will instead give the abstract definition and then justify it through examples.

Definition 4.1.1. An algebra \mathcal{A} is a set equipped with three operations:

$$\mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A} \tag{4.1}$$

$$(x, y) \mapsto x + y \quad \text{addition;}$$

$$\mathbb{C} \times \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A} \tag{4.2}$$

$$(\lambda, x) \mapsto \lambda x \quad \text{scalar multiplication;}$$

$$\mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A} \tag{4.3}$$

$$(x, y) \mapsto xy \quad \text{multiplication;}$$

such that with addition and scalar multiplication it forms a complex vector space, with addition and multiplication it forms a ring, and there is a compatibility condition between scalar multiplication and multiplication which is that for all $x, y \in \mathcal{A}$ and $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ we have $(\lambda x)y = x(\lambda y) = \lambda(xy)$. If the ring is commutative the algebra is said to be commutative and if the ring is unital the algebra is said to be unital. A norm on an algebra \mathcal{A} is a norm on the vector space structure $\|\cdot\| : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_0^+$ such that for all $x, y \in \mathcal{A}$ we have $\|xy\| \leq \|x\|\|y\|$. An algebra endowed with a norm is called a normed algebra. If the normed vector space structure of an algebra is Banach, the algebra is called Banach. An involution on an algebra \mathcal{A} is a map $^* : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A} \quad x \mapsto x^*$ such that for all $x, y \in \mathcal{A}$ and $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$:

$$(\lambda x + y)^* = \bar{\lambda}x^* + y^*; \quad (4.4)$$

$$(xy)^* = y^*x^*; \quad (4.5)$$

$$(x^*)^* = x. \quad (4.6)$$

An algebra equipped with an involution is said to be a * -algebra. A C^* -algebra is a Banach * -algebra where for all $x \in \mathcal{A}$

$$\|x^*x\| = \|x\|^2. \quad (4.7)$$

Example 4.1.1. The set of continuous functions vanishing at infinity on a locally compact Hausdorff space X , that is the set $C_0(X)$ of continuous $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ such that for every $\epsilon \in \mathbb{R}^+$ there exists a compact set K such that $f(K^c) \subseteq B(0, \epsilon) \subseteq \mathbb{C}$ forms a C^* -algebra with the supremum norm

$$\|f\| = \sup\{|f(x)| \mid x \in X\}. \quad (4.8)$$

This algebra differs from the structure described in 2.1 in that the functions are admittedly complex and their behavior at infinity is restricted. Nevertheless $C_0(X)$ is unital if and only if X is compact. In that case $C_0(X) = C(X)$ and the observables coincide with the self-adjoint elements of the C^* -algebra. One can associate both the need for restricting behavior at infinity or making the space compact by noting that any real feasible experiment performed on a system should be localized. This has to do with the experimental motivation of C^* -algebras given in [4]. We now note that every commutative C^* -algebra can be realized as the space of continuous functions on a compact Hausdorff space.

Example 4.1.2. The set of bounded operators in a Hilbert space \mathcal{H} forms a C^* -algebra with the operator norm

$$\|A\| = \sup \left\{ \frac{\|Ax\|}{\|x\|} \mid x \in \mathcal{H} \setminus \{0\} \right\}. \quad (4.9)$$

Once again, this algebra differs from the structure given in section 2.2 because we only consider bounded operators. Once again at a fundamental level this doesn't matter since we know through the spectral theorem or the logical structure presented in section ?? that we can describe all observables (bounded or unbounded) through their spectral decomposition into projections. In particular, we should be able to take the C^* -algebra generated by the projections associated to the observable we want to analyze. For example, instead of considering the position operator q on $L^2(\mathcal{H})$ given by $q\psi(x) = x\psi(x)$ for all $\psi \in \mathcal{H}$, we can consider the C^* -algebra generated by the characteristic functions of Borel sets $E \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ whose action on the Hilbert space is $\chi_E\psi(x) = \chi_E(x)\psi(x)$. Moreover, this problem as in the classical case, this problem is related to the fact that no experimental apparatus has an infinite display of outcomes. One indeed cannot measure infinitely large positions or momenta.

Another solution for the case of Schrödinger's mechanics is to consider the Weyl operators $U(a)$ and $V(b)$ for $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ given by

$$U(a)\psi(x) = \psi(x - \hbar a) \quad (4.10)$$

$$V(b)\psi(x) = e^{-ibx}\psi(x). \quad (4.11)$$

By Stone's theorem if q is the position operator and p is the momentum operator satisfying the canonical commutation relations $[x, p] = i\hbar$ we have $U(a) = e^{-iap}$ and $V(b) = e^{-ibq}$ [4].

As mentioned before the above definition gives structure to the observables of a system. To get a complete kinematical description we need to also give structure to the notion of state. We can inspire the definition of a state by the fact that both in classical and quantum descriptions the statistically appropriate notion of state seemed to act on the observable either through equation 2.1 or 2.6.

Definition 4.1.2. A state on a C^* -algebra \mathcal{A} is a positive normalized linear functional $\omega : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, i.e. it is a linear map such that $\|\omega\| = 1$ (normalized) and for all $x \in \mathcal{A}$ we have $\omega(x^*x) \geq 0$ (positive).

Note that for a unital C^* -algebra a positive linear functional ω is normalized if and only if $\omega(1) = 1$.

Example 4.1.3. By Riesz's representation theorem [?] we have that for every state ω on $C(X)$ for X compact Hausdorff there exists a probability measure P on X such that

$$\omega(f) = \int f dP \quad (4.12)$$

for every f in $C(X)$. Indeed P is the measure induced by the Daniel extension of ω . Moreover, it turns out that every commutative C^* -algebra is isomorphic to an algebra $C_0(X)$ for X locally compact Hausdorff[5]. In particular, this final remark justifies that classical systems can be treated in the context of C^* -algebras.

Example 4.1.4. As in the classical case, it so happens that every C^* -algebra can be realized as a closed self-adjoint subalgebra of the algebra of bounded operators of a Hilbert space[5]. In this case

$$\omega_\rho(x) = \text{tr}(A\rho) \quad (4.13)$$

defines a state for every density operator ρ . Moreover, all states are of this form. This justifies the connection between C^* -algebras and the usual presentation of quantum mechanics given in 2.2.

4.2 GNS Construction

Although we won't prove the structure theorems mentioned above for the characterization of C^* -algebras we will indeed be interested in the representation of a C^* -algebra on a Hilbert space induced by a state.

Definition 4.2.1. A representation of a C^* -algebra \mathcal{A} is a tuple (\mathcal{H}, π) where \mathcal{H} is a Hilbert space and $\pi : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow L(\mathcal{H})$ is a $*$ -homomorphism (i.e. an adjoint preserving homomorphism).

Theorem 4.2.1. If \mathcal{A} is a unital C^* -algebra and ω is a state on it, then there exists a representation $(\mathcal{H}_\omega, \pi_\omega)$ with a unit vector Ω_ω such that $\overline{\pi_\omega(\mathcal{A})\Omega_\omega} = \mathcal{H}_\omega$ (i.e., Ω_ω is cyclic) and for all $x \in \mathcal{A}$ we have that $\omega(x) = \langle \Omega_\omega, \pi_\omega(x)\Omega_\omega \rangle = \text{tr}(\pi_\omega(x)\rho_{\Omega_\omega})$.

Proof. Notice that in particular \mathcal{A} is a vector space. Consider the function

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{A} &\rightarrow \mathbb{C} \\ (x, y) &\mapsto \omega(x^*y).\end{aligned}\tag{4.14}$$

One can show that this function is an inner product except for the fact that there may be elements $x \in \mathcal{H} \setminus \{0\}$ such that $\omega(x^*x) = 0$. We may define $\mathcal{N}_\omega := \{x \in \mathcal{A} | \omega(x^*x) = 0\}$. Notice that if $x \in \mathcal{N}_\omega$ and $y \in \mathcal{A}$ then

$$\begin{aligned}|\omega((yx)^*(yx))|^2 &= |\omega(x^*y^*yx)|^2 = |\omega((y^*yx)^*x)|^2 \\ &\leq \omega((y^*yx)^*(y^*yx))\omega(x^*x) = 0,\end{aligned}\tag{4.15}$$

that is, \mathcal{N}_ω is a left ideal of \mathcal{A} . Notice that now the inner product

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{A}/\mathcal{N}_\omega \times \mathcal{A}/\mathcal{N}_\omega &\rightarrow \mathbb{C} \\ ([x], [y]) &\mapsto \langle [x], [y] \rangle := \omega(x^*y)\end{aligned}\tag{4.16}$$

is well defined and therefore take $\mathcal{H}_\omega = \overline{\mathcal{A}/\mathcal{N}_\omega}$. We define

$$\begin{aligned}\pi_\omega : \mathcal{A} &\rightarrow L(\mathcal{H}_\omega) \\ x &\mapsto \pi_\omega(x)\end{aligned}\tag{4.17}$$

by extension of $\pi_\omega(x)[y] := [xy]$ on $\mathcal{A}/\mathcal{N}_\omega$. We define at last $\Omega_\omega := [1]$. If $x \in \mathcal{A}$ we have

$$\langle \Omega_\omega, \pi_\omega(x)\Omega_\omega \rangle = \langle \Omega_\omega, [x] \rangle = \omega(x).\tag{4.18}$$

Moreover $\pi_\omega(\mathcal{A})\Omega_\omega = \mathcal{A}/\mathcal{N}_\omega$ and it is therefore verified that the vector Ω_ω is cyclic. \square

Note in particular that the GNS construction yields a way to calculate the entropy of state ω by calculating the entropy of state ρ_{Ω_ω} as in equation 2.7.

Example 4.2.1. Let's follow the GNS construction with the example of the C^* -algebra of 2×2 matrices with complex entries $M_2(\mathbb{C})$. This is of physical importance for 2 state systems. For example our recurring system in example 3.1.1 has this algebra of observables (the canonical matrix representations of the operators $P(0)$, $P(\pi/4)$, $P(\pi/2)$ and $P(3\pi/4)$ generate this algebra). Let the canonical basis of \mathbb{C}^2 be $\{e_1, e_2\}$ and the elementary matrices $E_{ij} = (\delta_{ij}) = (\langle e_i, e_j \rangle)$. Let's choose the state

$$\omega_\lambda(\alpha) = \lambda\alpha_{11} + (1 - \lambda)\alpha_{22}\tag{4.19}$$

for some $\lambda \in [0, 1]$. The parameter λ can be given interpretation by noting that $\omega_\lambda(P(0)) = \lambda$, that is, λ is the expectation value of the photon described to have polarization along the horizontal axis. We have that

$$\begin{aligned}\omega_\lambda(\alpha^* \alpha) &= \omega_\lambda \left(\left(\sum_{i=1}^2 (\alpha^*)_{ik} \alpha_{kj} \right)_{ij} \right) = \omega_\lambda \left(\left(\sum_{i=1}^2 \bar{\alpha}_{ki} \alpha_{kj} \right)_{ij} \right) \\ &= \lambda(|\alpha_{11}|^2 + |\alpha_{21}|^2) + (1 - \lambda)(|\alpha_{12}|^2 + |\alpha_{22}|^2).\end{aligned}\tag{4.20}$$

Therefore the ideal $\mathcal{N}_\lambda := \mathcal{N}_{\omega_\lambda}$ will depend on the choice of λ .

- If $\lambda = 0$,

$$\mathcal{N}_0 = \{\alpha \in M_2(\mathbb{C}) \mid \alpha_{12} = \alpha_{22} = 0\}.\tag{4.21}$$

Therefore it is clear that if $\mathcal{H}_\lambda := \mathcal{H}_{\omega_\lambda}$ we have

$$\mathcal{H}_0 = M_2(\mathbb{C})/\mathcal{N}_0 = \left\{ \left[\begin{bmatrix} 0 & \alpha_{12} \\ 0 & \alpha_{22} \end{bmatrix} \right] \mid \alpha_{12}, \alpha_{22} \in \mathbb{C} \right\}.\tag{4.22}$$

- If $\lambda = 1$ we have the symmetric case and we conclude

$$\mathcal{H}_1 = M_2(\mathbb{C})/\mathcal{N}_1 = \left\{ \left[\begin{bmatrix} \alpha_{11} & 0 \\ \alpha_{21} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right] \mid \alpha_{11}, \alpha_{21} \in \mathbb{C} \right\}.\tag{4.23}$$

Both representations are irreducible since they are isomorphic to the original.

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