

P14.2

Supplement

We have established that, supposing

$$N|v\rangle = v|v\rangle, \quad N = a^\dagger a, \quad \begin{cases} \{a, a^\dagger\} = 1 \\ \{a, a\} = \{a^\dagger, a^\dagger\} = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$v \geq 0;$$

$$\text{if } v \neq 0, \quad 1 - v \geq 0 \text{ or } v \leq 1 \text{ and}$$

$a|v\rangle$ is an eigenvector of N with eigenvalue $1 - v$;

if $v \neq 1$, $a^\dagger|v\rangle$ is an eigenvector of N with eigenvalue $1 - v$.

Also

$$a|0\rangle = 0, \quad a^\dagger|1\rangle = 0$$

~~The only~~ So $0 \leq v \leq 1$

Suppose $v = \alpha$, $0 < \alpha < 1$

We have

$$a|\alpha\rangle = \sqrt{\alpha} |1 - \alpha\rangle$$

$$\text{so } a^2|\alpha\rangle = a a|\alpha\rangle = \sqrt{\alpha} a|1 - \alpha\rangle = \sqrt{\alpha} \sqrt{1 - \alpha} |1 - (1 - \alpha)\rangle$$

this contradicts the fact that $\{a, a\} = 0$

if $|\alpha\rangle$ is a non-zero state.

\therefore the eigenvalues $0 < \alpha < 1$ must be ruled out.

\therefore the only eigenvalues of $N = a^\dagger a$ are 0 and 1.