

Pseudo-Hermitian Matrix Exactly Solvable Hamiltonian

Ancilla Nininahazwe

Institut de Pédagogie Appliquée, Université du Burundi, Bujumbura, Burundi

Email: nininaha@yahoo.fr

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Abstract

The non PT -symmetric exactly solvable Hamiltonian describing a system of a fermion in the external magnetic field which couples to a harmonic oscillator through some pseudo-hermitian interaction is considered. We point out all properties of both of the original Mandal and the original Jaynes-Cummings Hamiltonians. It is shown that these Hamiltonians are respectively pseudo-hermitian and hermitian [1] [2]. Like the direct approach to invariant vector spaces used in Refs. [3] [4], we reveal the exact solvability of both the Mandal and Jaynes-Cummings Hamiltonians after expressing them in the position operator and the impulsion operator.

Keywords

Pseudo-Hermiticity, Exact Solvability, Direct Method

1. Introduction

Several new theoretical aspects in quantum mechanics have been developed in last years. In the series of papers [5] [6], it is shown that the traditional self adjointness requirement (*i.e.* the hermiticity property) of a Hamilton operator is not necessary condition to guarantee real eigenvalues and that the weaker condition PT -symmetry of the Hamiltonian is sufficient for the purpose. Following the theory developed in Refs. [5] [6], let's remind that a Hamiltonian is invariant under the action of the combined parity operator P and the time reversal operator T if the relation $H^{PT} = H$ is proved (*i.e.* PT -symmetry is said to be broken). As a consequence, the spectrum associated the previous Hamiltonian is entirely real.

An alternative property called pseudo-hermiticity for a Hamiltonian to be associated to a real spectrum is shown in details in the Refs. [1] [2].

Referring the ideas of [1] [2], we recall here that a Hamiltonian is said to be η pseudo-hermitian if it satisfies the relation $\eta H \eta^{-1} = H^\dagger$, where η denotes an invertible linear hermitian operator.

Another direction of quantum mechanics is the notions of quasi exact solvability and exact solvability [7] [8] [9] [10].

In the last few years, a new class of operators has been discovered. This class is intermediate between exactly solvable operators and non solvable operators. Its name is *the quasi-exactly solvable (QES) operators*, for which a finite part of the spectrum can be computed algebraically.

This paper is organized as follows:

In Section 2, we briefly describe the general model which is expressed in terms of the creation and the annihilation operators. We show that the Hamiltonian describing the model is pseudo-hermitian if $\phi = -1$, or it is hermitian if $\phi = +1$.

In Section 3, we show in details the properties of the Mandal Hamiltonian namely the non-hermiticity, the non PT -symmetry, the pseudo-hermiticity and the exact solvability.

In Section 4, as in the previous section, it was pointed out that the original Jaynes-Cummings Hamiltonian is hermitian and exactly solvable.

2. The Model

In this section, we consider a Hamiltonian describing a system of a fermion in the external magnetic field, \mathbf{B} which couples the harmonic oscillator interaction (*i.e.* $\hbar\omega a^\dagger a$) and the pseudo-hermitian interaction if $\phi = -1$, or the hermitian interaction if $\phi = +1$ (*i.e.* $\rho(\sigma_+ a + \phi \sigma_- a^\dagger)$) [1] [2]:

$$H = \mu \boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \mathbf{B} + \hbar\omega a^\dagger a + \rho(\sigma_+ a + \phi \sigma_- a^\dagger), \tag{1}$$

where

$\boldsymbol{\sigma}$, σ_\pm denote Pauli matrices,

ρ , μ are real parameters,

a^\dagger , a refer the creation and annihilation operators respectively satisfying the usual bosonic commutation relation

$$[a, a^\dagger] = 1, [a, a] = [a^\dagger, a^\dagger] = 0 \text{ and } \sigma_\pm \equiv \frac{1}{2}(\sigma_x \pm i\sigma_y).$$

Recall that the matrices σ_+ , σ_- , σ_x , σ_y and σ_z can be expressed in the following matrix forms:

$$\sigma_+ = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \sigma_- = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \sigma_x = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \sigma_y = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \sigma_z = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{2}$$

For the sake simplicity, one can choose the external field in the z -direction (*i.e.* $\mathbf{B} = B_0 \mathbf{z}$) in order to reduce the Hamiltonian given by the Equation (1) and it becomes [1] [2]:

$$H = \frac{\mathcal{E}}{2} \sigma_z + \omega a^\dagger a + \rho(\sigma_+ a + \phi \sigma_- a^\dagger) \tag{3}$$

with $\varepsilon = 2\mu B_0$ and $\hbar = 1$.

3. Properties of the Original Mandal Hamiltonian

3.1. The Non-Hermiticity

In this section, we reveal that the Hamiltonian described by the Equation (3) is non-hermitian if $\phi = -1$. It is called Mandal Hamiltonian (*i.e.* H_M) and it takes the following form:

$$H_M = \frac{\varepsilon}{2}\sigma_z + \omega a^+ a + \rho(\sigma_+ a - \sigma_- a^+) \quad (4)$$

Taking account to the following identities:

$$\begin{aligned} (a^+)^+ &= a \\ (a)^+ &= a^+, \\ (\sigma_+)^+ &= \sigma_-, \\ (\sigma_-)^+ &= \sigma_+, \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

let's show that the Mandal Hamiltonian given by the above Equation (4) is non hermitian:

$$\begin{aligned} H_M^+ &= \left(\frac{\varepsilon}{2}\sigma_z\right)^+ + (\omega a^+ a)^+ + [\rho(\sigma_+ a - \sigma_- a^+)]^+, \\ H_M^+ &= \frac{\varepsilon}{2}\sigma_z + \omega a^+ a - \rho(\sigma_+ a - \sigma_- a^+). \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

Comparing the expressions given by the Equations (4) and (6), we see that they are different (*i.e.* $H_M^+ \neq H_M$), as a consequence, we are allowed to conclude that the Mandal Hamiltonian H_M is non-hermitian.

3.2. The Non PT -Symmetry of H_M

In this section, we prove that the Mandal Hamiltonian is non PT -symmetric [5] [6]. Recall that the parity operator is represented by the symbol P and the time-reversal operator is described by the symbol T .

The effect of the parity operator P implies the following changes [1] [2]:

$$\begin{aligned} P\varepsilon P^{-1} &= \varepsilon, \quad P\sigma_z P^{-1} = \sigma_z, \quad P\sigma_+ P^{-1} = \sigma_+, \\ P\sigma_- P^{-1} &= \sigma_-, \quad PaP^{-1} = -a, \quad Pa^+ P^{-1} = -a^+. \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

Notice also the changes of the following quantities under the effect of the time reversal operator T :

$$\begin{aligned} T\varepsilon T^{-1} &= \varepsilon, \quad T\sigma_z T^{-1} = -\sigma_z, \quad T\sigma_+ T^{-1} = -\sigma_-, \\ T\sigma_- T^{-1} &= -\sigma_+, \quad TaT^{-1} = -a, \quad Ta^+ T^{-1} = -a^+. \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

Taking account to the relations (7) and (8), one can easily deduce the changes of the Mandal Hamiltonian under the effect of combined operators P et T as follows

$$(PT)H_M(PT)^{-1} = (PT)\left[\frac{\varepsilon}{2}\sigma_z + \omega a^+ a + \rho(\sigma_+ a^+ - \sigma_- a)\right](PT)^{-1},$$

$$(PT)H_M(PT)^{-1} = -\frac{\varepsilon}{2}\sigma_z + \omega a^+ a + \rho(\sigma_+ a^+ - \sigma_- a), \quad (9)$$

This above relation (9) can be written as follows

$$H_M^{PT} = -\frac{\varepsilon}{2}\sigma_z + \omega a^+ a + \rho(\sigma_+ a^+ - \sigma_- a) \quad (10)$$

Comparing the relations (4) and (10), we see that they are different (*i.e.* $H_M^{PT} \neq H_M$), it means that the Mandal Hamiltonian H_M is not invariant under the combined action of the parity operator P and the time-reversal operator T . In other words, the Mandal Hamiltonian H_M is not PT -symmetric.

3.3. Pseudo-Hermiticity of H_M

In this section, we first prove that the non PT -symmetric Mandal Hamiltonian is pseudo-hermitian with respect to third Pauli matrix σ_z [1] [2]:

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_z H_M \sigma_z^{-1} &= \frac{\varepsilon}{2}\sigma_z \sigma_z \sigma_z^{-1} + \omega \sigma_z a^+ a \sigma_z^{-1} + \rho(\sigma_z \sigma_+ \sigma_z^{-1} a - \sigma_z \sigma_- \sigma_z^{-1} a^+) \\ &= \frac{\varepsilon}{2}\sigma_z + \omega a^+ a - \rho(\sigma_+ a - \sigma_- a^+) \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

with $\sigma_z \sigma_{\pm} \sigma_z^{-1} = -\sigma_{\mp}$ and $\sigma_z^{-1} = \sigma_z' = \sigma_z$.

Comparing the Equations (6) and (11), it is seen that the following relation is satisfied:

$$\sigma_z H_M \sigma_z^{-1} = H_M^+ \quad (12)$$

Taking account to this above relation, we are allowed to conclude that the Mandal Hamiltonian is pseudo-hermitian with respect to σ_z .

Finally, we reveal a pseudo-hermiticity of H_M with respect to the parity operator P :

$$\begin{aligned} P H_M P^{-1} &= \frac{\varepsilon}{2} P \sigma_z P^{-1} + \omega P a^+ a P^{-1} + \rho(P \sigma_+ a P^{-1} - P \sigma_- a^+ P^{-1}) \\ &= \frac{\varepsilon}{2}\sigma_z + \omega a^+ a - \rho(\sigma_+ a - \sigma_- a^+) \\ &= H_M^+ \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

Here we have used the relations (7) in order to obtain this above equation (13). As a consequence, one can conclude that the Mandal Hamiltonian is pseudo-hermitian with respect to the parity operator P .

Note that even if H_M is non hermitian and non PT -symmetric, its eigenvalues are entirely real due to the pseudo-hermiticity property [1].

3.4. Differential Form and Exact Solvability of H_M

In this step, our purpose is to change the Mandal Hamiltonian given by the Equation (4) in appropriate differential operator (*i.e.* H_M is expressed in the position operator x and in the impulsion operator $p = -i\frac{d}{dx}$). Thus, referring to the ideas of exactly and quasi-exactly solvable operators studied in the Refs. [7] [8]

[9] [10], we reveal that H_M preserves a family of vector spaces of polynomials in the variable x .

With this aim, we use the usual representation of the creation and annihilation operators of the harmonic oscillator respectively a^+ and a [1] [2]:

$$a^+ = \frac{p + im\omega x}{\sqrt{2m\omega\hbar}}, \quad a = \frac{p - im\omega x}{\sqrt{2m\omega\hbar}} \quad (14)$$

where ω is the oscillation frequency, m denotes the mass, x refers to the position operator and the impulsion operator is $p = -i\frac{d}{dx}$, $p^2 = -\frac{d^2}{dx^2}$.

Using appropriate units, we can assume $m = \hbar = 1$ and the operators a^+ and a take the following forms:

$$a^+ = \frac{p + i\omega x}{\sqrt{2\omega}}, \quad a = \frac{p - i\omega x}{\sqrt{2\omega}}. \quad (15)$$

Replacing the operators a^+ and a by their expressions given by this above Equation (15) in the Equation (4), the Mandal Hamiltonian H_M takes the following form:

$$H_M = \frac{\varepsilon}{2}\sigma_z + \frac{p^2 - \omega + \omega^2 x^2}{2} + \rho \frac{[\sigma_+(p - i\omega x) - \sigma_-(p + i\omega x)]}{\sqrt{2\omega}}. \quad (16)$$

In order to reveal the exact solvability of the above operator H_M , we first perform the standard gauge transformation [2]:

$$\tilde{H}_M = R^{-1}H_M R, \quad R = \exp\left(-\frac{\omega x^2}{2}\right). \quad (17)$$

After some algebraic manipulations, the new Hamiltonian \tilde{H}_M (known as gauge Hamiltonian) is obtained

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{H}_M &= \frac{\varepsilon}{2}\sigma_z - \frac{1}{2}\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + \omega x \frac{d}{dx} + \rho \frac{[\sigma_+ p - \sigma_-(p + 2i\omega x)]}{\sqrt{2\omega}} \\ &= \frac{\varepsilon}{2}\sigma_z + \frac{p^2}{2} + i\omega x p + \rho \frac{[\sigma_+ p - \sigma_-(p + 2i\omega x)]}{\sqrt{2\omega}} \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

Replacing the Pauli matrices σ_z, σ_+ and σ_- by their respective expressions given by the relation (2), the final form of the gauge Hamiltonian is:

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{H}_M &= \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \frac{p^2}{2} + i\omega x p & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{p^2}{2} + i\omega x p \end{pmatrix} - \rho \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \frac{p}{\sqrt{2\omega}} \\ \frac{p + 2i\omega x}{\sqrt{2\omega}} & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \\ \tilde{H}_M &= \begin{pmatrix} \frac{p^2}{2} + i\omega x p + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} & \rho \frac{p}{\sqrt{2\omega}} \\ -\rho \frac{p + 2i\omega x}{\sqrt{2\omega}} & \frac{p^2}{2} + i\omega x p - \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

Note that one can easily check if this above gauge Hamiltonian \tilde{H}_M preserves the vector spaces of polynomials $V_n = (P_{n-1}(x), P_n(x))^t$ with $n \in \mathbb{N}$. As

the integer n doesn't have to be fixed (*i.e.* it is arbitrary), \tilde{H}_M is exactly solvable. Indeed, its all eigenvalues can be computed algebraically. Even if the gauge Mandal Hamiltonian \tilde{H}_M is non-hermitian and non PT -symmetric, its spectrum energy is entirely real due to the property of the pseudo-hermiticity [1] [2].

Thus, the vector spaces preserved by the operator H_M have the following form

$$W_n = e^{-\frac{\omega x^2}{2}} (P_{n-1}(x), P_n(x))^t \quad (20)$$

where $P_{n-1}(x)$ and $P_n(x)$ denote respectively the polynomials of degree $n-1$ and n .

As the gauge Mandal Hamiltonian \tilde{H}_M , it is obvious that the original Mandal Hamiltonian H_M is exactly solvable. Due to this property of exact solvability, the whole spectrum of H_M can be computed exactly (*i.e.* by the algebraic methods) [1] [2] [3].

4. Properties of the Jaynes-Cummings Hamiltonian

4.1. The Hermiticity

In this section, considering $\phi = +1$, the Hamiltonian given by the Equation (3) leads to the standard Jaynes-Cummings Hamiltonian of the following form

$$H_{JC} = \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \sigma_z + \omega a^\dagger a + \rho (\sigma_+ a + \sigma_- a^\dagger) \quad (21)$$

Our aim is now to prove that the above Hamiltonian H_{JC} is hermitian.

Indeed, in order to reveal the hermiticity of the Jaynes-Cummings Hamiltonian given by the above relation (21), the following relation $H_{JC}^\dagger = H_{JC}$ must be satisfied.

Consider now the following relation

$$H_{JC}^\dagger = \left(\frac{\varepsilon}{2} \sigma_z \right)^\dagger + (\omega a^\dagger a)^\dagger + [\rho (\sigma_+ a + \sigma_- a^\dagger)]^\dagger, \quad (22)$$

Taking account to the identities of the relation (5), this above equation leads the following expression:

$$H_{JC}^\dagger = \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \sigma_z + \omega a^\dagger a + [\rho (\sigma_+ a + \sigma_- a^\dagger)]. \quad (23)$$

Comparing the Equations (21) and (23), one can write that

$$H_{JC}^\dagger = H_{JC}. \quad (24)$$

Referring to this equation (24), it is obvious that the standard Jaynes-Cummings Hamiltonian is hermitian. As a consequence, its eigenvalues are real due to the property of hermiticity.

4.2. Differential Form and Exact Solvability of H_{JC}

Along the same lines as in the above section 3.4, our purpose is to change the Jaynes-Cummings Hamiltonian given by the Equation (21) in appropriate diffe-

rential operator (*i.e.* H_{JC} is expressed in the position operator x and in the impulsion operator $p = -i \frac{d}{dx}$).

With this purpose, we use the usual expressions of the creation and annihilation operators of the harmonic oscillator respectively a^+ and a given by the Equation (15).

Substituting (15) in the Equation (21), the Jaynes-Cummings Hamiltonian H_{JC} is written now as follows

$$H_{JC} = \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \sigma_z + \frac{p^2 - \omega + \omega^2 x^2}{2} + \rho \frac{[\sigma_+ (p - i\omega x) + \sigma_- (p + i\omega x)]}{\sqrt{2\omega}} \tag{25}$$

Operating on the above operator H_{JC} the standard gauge transformation as

$$\tilde{H}_{JC} = R^{-1} H_{JC} R, \quad R = \exp\left(-\frac{\omega x^2}{2}\right), \tag{26}$$

after some algebraic manipulations, the new Hamiltonian \tilde{H}_{JC} (known as gauge Hamiltonian) is obtained

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{H}_M &= \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \sigma_z - \frac{1}{2} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} + \omega x \frac{d}{dx} + \rho \frac{[\sigma_+ p + \sigma_- (p + 2i\omega x)]}{\sqrt{2\omega}} \\ &= \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \sigma_z + \frac{p^2}{2} + i\omega xp + \rho \frac{[\sigma_+ p + \sigma_- (p + 2i\omega x)]}{\sqrt{2\omega}} \end{aligned} \tag{27}$$

Replacing the Pauli matrices σ_z, σ_+ and σ_- respectively by their matrix form given by the relation (2), the final form of the gauge Hamiltonian \tilde{H}_{JC} is

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{H}_M &= \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \frac{p^2}{2} + i\omega xp & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{p^2}{2} + i\omega xp \end{pmatrix} + \rho \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \frac{p}{\sqrt{2\omega}} \\ \frac{p + 2i\omega x}{\sqrt{2\omega}} & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \\ \tilde{H}_M &= \begin{pmatrix} \frac{p^2}{2} + i\omega xp + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} & \rho \frac{p}{\sqrt{2\omega}} \\ \rho \frac{p + 2i\omega x}{\sqrt{2\omega}} & \frac{p^2}{2} + i\omega xp - \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned} \tag{28}$$

Note that one can easily check if this above gauge Hamiltonian \tilde{H}_{JC} preserves the finite dimensional vector spaces of polynomials namely $V_n = (P_{n-1}(x), P_n(x))^t$ with $n \in \mathbb{N}$. As the integer n is arbitrary, the gauge Jaynes-Cummings Hamiltonian \tilde{H}_{JC} is exactly solvable.

As a consequence, its all eigenvalues can be computed algebraically. Indeed, the vector spaces preserved by the operator H_{JC} have the following form

$$W_n = e^{-\frac{\omega x^2}{2}} (P_{n-1}(x), P_n(x))^t \tag{29}$$

where $P_{n-1}(x)$ and $P_n(x)$ denote respectively the polynomials of degree $n - 1$ and n .

As the gauge Jaynes-Cummings Hamiltonian \tilde{H}_{JC} , it is obvious that the

standard Jaynes-Cummings Hamiltonian H_{JC} is exactly solvable. In other words, all eigenvalues associated to the Hamiltonian H_{JC} can be calculated algebraically (*i.e.* by the algebraic methods) [1-3].

5. Conclusion

In this paper, we have put out all properties of the original Mandal Hamiltonian. We have shown that the Mandal Hamiltonian H_M is non-hermitian and non-invariant under the combined action of the parity operator P and the time-reversal operator T . Even if the previous properties are not satisfied, it has been proved that the Mandal Hamiltonian H_M is pseudo-hermitian with respect to P and with respect to σ_3 also. With the direct method, we have revealed that H_M preserves the finite dimensional vector spaces of polynomials namely $V_n = (P_{n-1}(x), P_n(x))^t$. Indeed, the Mandal Hamiltonian H_M is said to be exactly solvable [1] [2] [3] [4]. Along the same lines used in Section 3, we have pointed out that the standard Jaynes-Cummings Hamiltonian H_{JC} is hermitian and exactly solvable in Section 4.

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Conflicts of Interest

The author declares no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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