

A Theorem on Canonical Commutation and Anticommutation Relations

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Abstract. The aim of this note is to characterize representations of the canonical commutation or anticommutation relations which, on a subspace of the "space of test-functions", reduce to a sum of copies of the Fock representation.

1. Generalities¹

Let \mathcal{L} be a real separated prehilbert space. We assume that \mathcal{L} is separable. One may in a standard way construct a complex Hilbert space \mathcal{H} (Fock space) and, for each $f \in \mathcal{L}$, operators $a(f)$, $a^*(f)$ forming the Fock representation of the canonical commutation relations (CCR) or anticommutation relations (CAR) of \mathcal{L} .

In the case of the CAR the operators $a(f)$, $a^*(f)$ are bounded and the C^* -algebra \mathfrak{A} associated with the Fock representation of the CAR is defined as the uniform closure of the algebra generated by all operators $a(f)$, $a^*(f)$. In the case of the CCR the operators $\varphi(f) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(a(f) + a^*(f))$ and $\pi(f) = \frac{1}{i\sqrt{2}}(a(f) - a^*(f))$ are self-adjoint and one may define the Weyl operators $U(f) = \exp(i\varphi(f))$, $V(f) = \exp(i\pi(f))$. The C^* -algebra \mathfrak{A} associated with the Fock representation of the CCR is defined as the uniform closure of the algebra generated by all operators $U(f)$, $V(f)$. \mathfrak{A} is irreducible and contains the identity operator $\mathbf{1}$ of \mathcal{H} .

A (CCR or CAR) representation of \mathcal{L} in a complex Hilbert space \mathfrak{H} is defined by a $*$ -homomorphism γ of \mathfrak{A} into the bounded operators on \mathfrak{H} such that $\gamma(\mathbf{1})$ is the identity on \mathfrak{H} and, in the case of the CCR the

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¹ For a general description of CCR and CAR see GARDING and WIGHTMAN [4]; for CCR see LEW [5] and references given there to earlier work, in particular by SEGAL; for C^* -algebras see DIXMIER [3].

functions $t \rightarrow \gamma(\exp(it\varphi(f)))$, $t \rightarrow \gamma(\exp(it\pi(f)))$ of the real variable t are strongly continuous for each $f \in \mathcal{L}$. There are then uniquely defined self-adjoint operators $\varphi_\gamma(f)$, $\pi_\gamma(f)$ on \mathfrak{H} such that

$$\gamma(U(f)) = \exp(i\varphi_\gamma(f)), \quad \gamma(V(f)) = \exp(i\pi_\gamma(f)). \tag{1}$$

A linear functional ϱ on \mathfrak{A} which is positive (≥ 0) and normalized ($\varrho(\mathbf{1}) = 1$) is called a *state* on \mathfrak{A} . In the case of the CCR we shall always assume that ϱ is *regular* in the sense that for all $A, B \in \mathfrak{A}$ and $f \in \mathcal{L}$, the functions $\varrho(AU(tf)B)$ and $\varrho(AV(tf)B)$ of the real variable t are continuous. By the Gelfand-Segal construction one obtains a complex Hilbert space \mathfrak{H} , a vector $\Omega \in \mathfrak{H}$ such that $\|\Omega\| = 1$ and a $*$ -homomorphism γ of \mathfrak{A} into the bounded operators on \mathfrak{H} satisfying the properties indicated above, Ω is cyclic with respect to $\gamma(\mathfrak{A})$ and for all $A \in \mathfrak{A}$ one has

$$\varrho(A) = (\Omega, \gamma(A)\Omega). \tag{2}$$

A state ϱ on \mathfrak{A} defines thus a cyclic representation of \mathcal{L} . Conversely a cyclic representation of \mathcal{L} in \mathfrak{H} , defined by a $*$ -homomorphism γ of \mathfrak{A} and a normalized vector Ω cyclic with respect to $\gamma(\mathfrak{A})$, yields a state ϱ by (2), and ϱ determines the representation within unitary equivalence (uniqueness of the Gelfand construction). Although \mathcal{L} is assumed to be separable \mathfrak{H} will in general not be separable (\mathfrak{A} is in general not norm-separable in the case of the CCR).

If $\Phi \in \mathcal{H}$ and $\|\Phi\| = 1$ the state ω_Φ on \mathfrak{A} defined by

$$\omega_\Phi(A) = (\Phi, A\Phi) \quad \text{for all } A \in \mathfrak{A} \tag{3}$$

is called a *vector state*. The Gelfand representation constructed from ω_Φ is again the Fock representation.

If σ is a *density matrix* (i.e. a positive (≥ 0) operator with trace 1) on \mathcal{H} , the state ϱ_σ on \mathfrak{A} defined by

$$\varrho_\sigma(A) = \text{Tr}(\sigma A) \quad \text{for all } A \in \mathfrak{A} \tag{4}$$

is called a *normal state* (with respect to the Fock representation).

Let a (CCR or CAR) representation of \mathcal{L} be defined on a Hilbert space \mathfrak{H} by a $*$ -homomorphism δ of \mathfrak{A} into the bounded operators on \mathfrak{H} . If we can write \mathfrak{H} as the completed tensor product

$$\mathfrak{H} = \mathfrak{H}_1 \otimes \overline{\mathfrak{H}_2} \tag{5}$$

of two Hilbert spaces \mathfrak{H}_1 and \mathfrak{H}_2 in such a way that

$$\delta = \delta_1 \otimes \mathbf{1}_{\mathfrak{H}_2} \tag{6}$$

and if the representation defined by δ_1 on \mathfrak{H}_1 is the Fock representation (i.e. if δ_1 is implemented by an isometry of \mathcal{H} onto \mathfrak{H}_1) our original representation will be called *normal*. By choosing an orthonormal basis in \mathfrak{H}_2 one sees that a *normal representation is the same thing as a direct sum of copies of the Fock representation*.

Lemma 1. *The Gel'fand representation constructed from a normal state ϱ_σ on \mathfrak{A} is normal.*

Using the spectral decomposition of σ we may write for all $A \in \mathfrak{A}$

$$\varrho_\sigma(A) = \sum_n c_n \omega_{\Psi_n}(A) \tag{7}$$

where the Ψ_n are orthonormal vectors of \mathcal{H} . Let the normalized vector $\Psi \in \mathcal{H} \otimes \overline{\mathcal{H}}$ be defined by

$$\Psi = \sum_n c_n^{\frac{1}{2}} \Psi_n \otimes \Psi_n \tag{8}$$

and let the *-homomorphism δ of \mathfrak{A} into the bounded operators of $\mathcal{H} \otimes \overline{\mathcal{H}}$ be defined by

$$\delta(A) = A \otimes \mathbf{1} . \tag{9}$$

We have then for all $A \in \mathfrak{A}$

$$\varrho_\sigma(A) = (\Psi, \delta(A)\Psi) . \tag{10}$$

Let \mathfrak{H}_Ψ be the closure of $\delta(\mathfrak{A})\Psi$ in $\mathcal{H} \otimes \overline{\mathcal{H}}$. The projection E on \mathfrak{H}_Ψ commutes with $\delta(\mathfrak{A}) = \mathfrak{A} \otimes \mathbf{1}$ and, since \mathfrak{A} is irreducible, it is of the form $E = \mathbf{1} \otimes E_0$ where E_0 is a projection in \mathcal{H} . By the uniqueness of the Gel'fand construction, the Gel'fand representation constructed from ϱ_σ is defined by the restriction δ_0 of δ to \mathfrak{H}_Ψ . Lemma 1 follows then from the definition of a normal representation and the relations

$$\mathfrak{H}_\Psi = \mathcal{H} \otimes \overline{E_0 \mathcal{H}} \tag{11}$$

$$\delta_0(A) = A \otimes \mathbf{1}_0 \quad \text{for all } A \in \mathfrak{A} \tag{12}$$

where $\mathbf{1}_0$ is the identity in $E_0 \mathcal{H}$.

2. Number operators

Let γ be a *-homomorphism of \mathfrak{A} into the bounded operators of a complex Hilbert space \mathfrak{H} defining a (CCR or CAR) representation of \mathcal{L} . If $f \in \mathcal{L}$ we write

$$b(f) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\varphi_\gamma(f) + i\pi_\gamma(f)) \quad \text{(CCR)} \tag{13}$$

$$b(f) = \gamma(a(f)) \quad \text{(CAR)}$$

where $\varphi_\gamma, \pi_\gamma$ are given by (1). If $\|f\| = 1$ a number operator $N(f) = b(f)^* b(f)$ is defined on \mathfrak{H} , $N(f)$ is self-adjoint with spectrum constituted by the non-negative integers (CCR) or 0 and 1 (CAR). We note $E_n(f)$ the projection on the subspace corresponding to the eigenvalue n of $N(f)$ so that

$$N(f) = \sum_n n E_n(f), \quad \mathbf{1} = \sum_n E_n(f) . \tag{14}$$

Let (f_m) be an orthonormal basis of \mathcal{L} . If $\mathbf{n} = (n_m)$ is a family of non-negative integers (CCR) or elements of $\{0, 1\}$ (CAR) such that $|\mathbf{n}|$

$= \sum_m n_m < +\infty$ we define

$$E_n = \prod_m E_{n_m}(f_m) \tag{15}$$

$$E_n = \sum_{|n|=n} E_n. \tag{16}$$

If the ranges of the orthogonal projections E_n span \mathfrak{H} we define a self-adjoint operator

$$N = \sum_n n E_n \tag{17}$$

and we have in the sense of strong convergence on the domain of N :

$$N = \sum_m N(f_m). \tag{18}$$

We shall say that *the representation has a total number operator N* if

1. In the case of the CAR, N exists for one choice of the orthonormal basis (f_m)
2. In the case of the CCR, N exists and is the same for every choice² of the orthonormal basis (f_m) .

Otherwise we shall say that there is no total number operator.

Lemma 2.³ *A representation of \mathcal{L} on \mathfrak{H} is normal if and only if it has a total number operator N .*

A total number operator is defined for the Fock representation and therefore also for a normal representation.

To prove the converse we first show that, if N exists for one orthonormal basis (f_m) of \mathcal{L} , the restriction of the representation to the subspace \mathcal{L}_0 of \mathcal{L} generated by finite linear combinations of the f_m is normal. We assume thus that the ranges \mathfrak{H}_n of the projections E_n span \mathfrak{H} .

Let $\mathfrak{n}, \mathfrak{n}'$ be such that $n_m - n'_m = \delta_{m m_0}$, then the CCR or CAR show that $b(f_{m_0})\mathfrak{H}_n \subset \mathfrak{H}_{n'}$, $b(f_{m_0})^*\mathfrak{H}_{n'} \subset \mathfrak{H}_n$. In fact \subset may be replaced by $=$ in these relations because $n_m^{-1}b(f_{m_0})^*b(f_{m_0})$ reduces to the identity on \mathfrak{H}_n and $n_m^{-1}b(f_{m_0})b(f_{m_0})^*$ reduces to the identity on $\mathfrak{H}_{n'}$. In particular, every vector in \mathfrak{H}_n is of the form $M\Psi$ where M is a monomial in the $b(f_m)^*$ and $\Psi \in \mathfrak{H}_0$.

Let (Ψ_α) be an orthonormal basis of \mathfrak{H}_0 and let \mathfrak{H}_α be the subspace of \mathfrak{H} spanned by vectors of the form $P\Psi_\alpha$ where P is a polynomial in the $b(f_m)^*$. The spaces \mathfrak{H}_α are orthogonal and the above remarks show that they span \mathfrak{H} .

By reference to a standard construction of the Fock space and Fock representation one sees that the representation of \mathcal{L}_0 on \mathfrak{H} defined by γ reduces to the Fock representation on each \mathfrak{H}_α , it is thus a sum of copies of the Fock representation, i.e. normal.

² The authors are thankful to I. Segal for pointing out that Lemma 2 is false if one only assumes the existence of N for *one* basis, counterexamples have been constructed by J. Chaiken (private communication).

³ See GÄRDING and WIGHTMAN [4] and WIGHTMAN and SCHWEBER [7].

In the case of the CAR, the fact that the representation is normal when restricted to \mathcal{L}_0 implies that it is normal because \mathcal{L}_0 is dense in \mathcal{L} and $f \mapsto a(f)$ is continuous (see next footnote).

In the case of the CCR, our assumptions imply that for any $f \in \mathcal{L}$, $a(f)^* a(f)$ vanishes on \mathfrak{H}_0 , hence $a(f)\Psi_\alpha = 0$ for all α . Using the commutation relations shows then that the matrix elements of $a(f)$ are those of the Fock representation.

Remark 1. Since the construction of the Fock representation of \mathcal{L} is independent of the choice of a basis in \mathcal{L} , Lemma 2 shows that the existence and definition of a total number operator for the CAR are also independent of the choice of a basis.

Remark 2. For a representation of the CAR without total number operator, let \mathfrak{H}' be the subspace of \mathfrak{H} spanned by the ranges \mathfrak{H}_n of the projections E_n . The above proof shows that the representation leaves \mathfrak{H}' stable and that its restriction to \mathfrak{H}' is normal.

3. Normalcy of an induced representation

Let $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_1 \oplus \mathcal{L}_2$ where \mathcal{L}_1 is a real Hilbert space and \mathcal{L}_2 a real prehilbert space⁴. We let $\mathfrak{A}_1, \mathfrak{A}_2$ be the C^* -algebras associated with the Fock representations of \mathcal{L}_1 resp. \mathcal{L}_2 in the Fock spaces \mathcal{H}_1 resp. \mathcal{H}_2 and $\tilde{\mathfrak{A}}_1, \tilde{\mathfrak{A}}_2$ be the C^* -subalgebras of \mathfrak{A} generated by the $U(f), V(f)$ (CCR) or the $a(f), a^*(f)$ (CAR) with $f \in \mathcal{L}_1$ resp. $f \in \mathcal{L}_2$. One can identify naturally the Fock space \mathcal{H} of \mathcal{L} with the completed tensor product of \mathcal{H}_1 and \mathcal{H}_2 :

$$\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_1 \bar{\otimes} \mathcal{H}_2 \tag{19}$$

in such a way that $\mathfrak{A}_1 \otimes \mathbf{1}_2$ is identified with $\tilde{\mathfrak{A}}_1$. In the case of the CCR, $\mathbf{1}_1 \otimes \mathfrak{A}_2$ is also identified with $\tilde{\mathfrak{A}}_2$ (but this is not so for the CAR since $\tilde{\mathfrak{A}}_1, \tilde{\mathfrak{A}}_2$ do not commute). Notice that it follows from our definitions that the finite sums $\sum_i A_1^i A_2^i$ with $A_1^i \in \tilde{\mathfrak{A}}_1, A_2^i \in \tilde{\mathfrak{A}}_2$ are uniformly dense in \mathfrak{A} .

Let a representation of \mathcal{L} be defined by a $*$ -homomorphism γ of \mathfrak{A} into the bounded operators in a complex Hilbert space \mathfrak{H} , and let γ' be the $*$ -homomorphism of \mathfrak{A}_1 defined by $\gamma'(A) = \gamma(A \otimes \mathbf{1}_2)$. We say that the representation of \mathcal{L}_1 on \mathfrak{H} defined by γ' is the representation *induced* by the above one on \mathcal{L}_1 .

We consider now to the case where the representation defined by γ is the Gel'fand representation constructed from a state ρ on \mathfrak{A} (in the case of the CCR we assume as usual that ρ is regular). There exists then

⁴ In the case of the CAR, we might without loss of generality assume that \mathcal{L}_2 (and therefore \mathcal{L}) is complete (cf. [2]). We have indeed by virtue of the CAR, $\|a(f)\| = \|a^*(f)\| = \|f\|$; hence $a(f)$ and $a^*(f)$ are continuous in f and the C^* -algebra \mathfrak{A}_2 generated by the $a(f), a^*(f)$ with $f \in \mathcal{L}_2$ is identical to the C^* -algebra generated by the $a(f), a^*(f)$ with f in the completion \mathcal{L}_2 of \mathcal{L}_2 .

a normalized vector $\Omega \in \mathfrak{H}$, cyclic with respect to $\gamma(\mathfrak{A})$ and such that

$$\varrho(A) = \omega_\Omega(\gamma(A)) = (\Omega, \gamma(A)\Omega) \tag{20}$$

for all $A \in \mathfrak{A}$. With these notations we prove

Theorem. *The condition*

A. *If the projections E'_n are defined by (16) for the representation defined by the *-homomorphism γ' , then*

$$\sum_n \omega_\Omega(E'_n) = 1 \tag{21}$$

is implied by and, in the case of the CAR, equivalent to, the following equivalent conditions

B. *The representation of \mathcal{L}_1 on \mathfrak{H} defined by γ' has a total number operator N' .*

C. *The representation of \mathcal{L}_1 on \mathfrak{H} defined by γ' is normal.*

D. *There exists a density matrix σ on \mathcal{H}_1 such that*

$$\varrho(A \otimes \mathbf{1}_2) = \omega_\Omega(\gamma'(A)) = \text{Tr}(\sigma A) = \varrho_\sigma(A) \tag{22}$$

for all $A \in \mathfrak{A}_1$.

The implication $B \Rightarrow A$ is obvious, and the equivalence $B \Leftrightarrow C$ follows directly from Lemma 2. We prove now successively $A \Rightarrow B$ (for CAR), $C \Rightarrow D$, $D \Rightarrow B$.

$A \Rightarrow B$ (CAR)

Equation (21) expresses that Ω is contained in the subspace \mathfrak{H}' of \mathfrak{H} spanned by the ranges \mathfrak{H}'_n of the projections E'_n . We have to prove that $\mathfrak{H}' = \mathfrak{H}$, or equivalently that $\gamma(\mathfrak{A})\Omega \subset \mathfrak{H}'$ or, since the finite sums $\sum_i A_1^i A_2^i$ with $A_1^i \in \tilde{\mathfrak{A}}_1$, $A_2^i \in \tilde{\mathfrak{A}}_2$ are uniformly dense in \mathfrak{A} , that $\gamma(\tilde{\mathfrak{A}}_1) \times \gamma(\tilde{\mathfrak{A}}_2)\Omega \subset \mathfrak{H}'$. Since $\Omega \in \mathfrak{H}'$ and $\gamma(\tilde{\mathfrak{A}}_2)\mathfrak{H}'_n \subset \mathfrak{H}'_n$ it remains to check that $\gamma(\tilde{\mathfrak{A}}_1)\mathfrak{H}' = \gamma(\mathfrak{A}_1 \otimes \mathbf{1}_2)\mathfrak{H}' = \gamma'(\mathfrak{A}_1)\mathfrak{H}' \subset \mathfrak{H}'$, but this follows from Remark 2 at the end of Section 2.

$C \Rightarrow D$

By definition, condition B means that one can write $\mathfrak{H} = \mathfrak{H}_1 \bar{\otimes} \mathfrak{H}_2$ and $\gamma' = \gamma'_1 \otimes \mathbf{1}_{\mathfrak{H}_2}$ where γ'_1 is implemented by an isometry W of \mathcal{H}_1 onto \mathfrak{H}_1 . Let (Ψ_α) be an orthonormal basis of \mathfrak{H}_2 , then an isometry W_α of \mathcal{H}_1 onto $\mathfrak{H}_1 \otimes \Psi_\alpha$ is defined by $W_\alpha \Psi = W \Psi \otimes \Psi_\alpha$. Let $c_\alpha^{1/2} \Omega_\alpha$ be the component of Ω in $\mathfrak{H}_1 \otimes \Psi_\alpha$, where $\|\Omega_\alpha\| = 1$; we have then

$$\sum_\alpha c_\alpha = 1 \tag{23}$$

and for all $A \in \mathfrak{A}_1$

$$\begin{aligned} \varrho(A \otimes \mathbf{1}_2) &= \omega_\Omega(\gamma'(A)) = \sum_\alpha c_\alpha \omega_{\Omega_\alpha}(W_\alpha A W_\alpha^{-1}) \\ &= \sum_\alpha c_\alpha (W_\alpha^{-1} \Omega, A W_\alpha^{-1} \Omega_\alpha). \end{aligned} \tag{24}$$

If E_α is the projection on $W_\alpha^{-1}\Omega_\alpha$ in \mathcal{H}_1 , (23) implies that

$$\sigma = \sum_\alpha c_\alpha E_\alpha \tag{25}$$

is a density matrix and D follows from (24) and (25).

$D \Rightarrow B$

Let \mathfrak{H}_Ω be the closure in \mathfrak{H} of $\gamma'(\mathfrak{A}_1)\Omega$. By the uniqueness of the Gel'fand construction, the restriction to \mathfrak{H}_Ω of the representation defined by γ' in \mathfrak{H} is, by (22), identical to the Gel'fand representation constructed from the normal state ϱ_α on \mathfrak{A}_1 and thus normal by Lemma 1. This restricted representation has thus a total number operator N'' . From this follows the existence of a total number operator N' for the representation defined by γ' in \mathfrak{H} : if $\Psi \in \mathfrak{H}_\Omega$ and $A_2 \in \mathfrak{A}_2$, then $N' \gamma(A_2)\Psi = \gamma(A_2)N''\Psi$.

Remark. In the case of the CCR, C may be rewritten as C' . One may write $\mathfrak{H} = \mathfrak{H}_1 \bar{\otimes} \mathfrak{H}_2$ and there exist *-homomorphisms γ'_1, γ'_2 of \mathfrak{A}_1 , resp. \mathfrak{A}_2 into the bounded operators on \mathfrak{H}_1 resp. \mathfrak{H}_2 such that

$$\gamma(A_1 \otimes A_2) = \gamma'_1(A_1) \otimes \gamma'_2(A_2)$$

and γ'_1 is implemented by an isometry of \mathcal{H}_1 onto \mathfrak{H}_1 .

It is clear that $C' \Rightarrow C$. To prove that $C \Rightarrow C'$ we note that C implies the existence of the decomposition $\mathfrak{H} = \mathfrak{H}_1 \bar{\otimes} \mathfrak{H}_2$ and of γ'_1 such that $\gamma' = \gamma'_1 \otimes \mathbf{1}_{\mathfrak{H}_2}$ and γ'_1 is implemented by an isometry of \mathcal{H}_1 onto \mathfrak{H}_1 . Since $\gamma(\mathbf{1}_1 \otimes \mathfrak{A}_2)$ is in the commutant of $\gamma(\mathfrak{A}_1 \otimes \mathbf{1}_2) = \gamma'(\mathfrak{A}_1) = \gamma'_1(\mathfrak{A}_1) \otimes \mathbf{1}_{\mathfrak{H}_2}$, and since $\gamma'_1(\mathfrak{A}_1)$ is irreducible, every operator $\gamma(\mathbf{1}_1 \otimes A_2)$ with $A_2 \in \mathfrak{A}_2$ is of the form $\mathbf{1}_1 \otimes \gamma'_2(A_2)$, which concludes the proof.

4. Physical interpretation

The mathematical situation described by the theorem of Section 3 is of interest in the study of quantum mechanical systems with an infinite number of degrees of freedom. For instance, if \mathcal{L} is the space of real square-integrable functions with compact support in R^v , ϱ may be taken to be the expectation value functional describing the state of an infinite system of bosons (CCR) or fermions (CAR) in thermodynamic equilibrium in R^v (see [1], [2] and [6]). Let then \mathcal{L}_1 be the space of real square-integrable functions on a bounded (measurable) subset A of R^v . The restriction of ϱ to $\tilde{\mathfrak{A}}_1 = \mathfrak{A}_1 \otimes \mathbf{1}_2$ will describe the particles contained in the region A . Condition B (or A: in the case of CAR they are equivalent) expresses that the probability of finding an infinite number of particles simultaneously in A vanishes. This condition is always satisfied for particles with hard cores; in general its violation would correspond to a catastrophic behaviour of the system from the thermodynamic point of view. The theorem tells us then that the restriction of ϱ to the region A (i.e. to $\mathfrak{A}_1 \otimes \mathbf{1}_2$) is given by a density matrix. For more details see [6].

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