

Contents

	<i>Preface</i>	<i>page xiii</i>
1	Introduction	1
	1.1 Scope of this book	1
	1.2 Quantum states and variables	2
	1.3 Quantum dynamics	3
	1.4 Mathematics I. Linear algebra	4
	1.5 Mathematics II. Calculus, probability theory	5
	1.6 Quantum reasoning	6
	1.7 Quantum measurements	8
	1.8 Quantum paradoxes	9
2	Wave functions	11
	2.1 Classical and quantum particles	11
	2.2 Physical interpretation of the wave function	13
	2.3 Wave functions and position	17
	2.4 Wave functions and momentum	20
	2.5 Toy model	23
3	Linear algebra in Dirac notation	27
	3.1 Hilbert space and inner product	27
	3.2 Linear functionals and the dual space	29
	3.3 Operators, dyads	30
	3.4 Projectors and subspaces	34
	3.5 Orthogonal projectors and orthonormal bases	36
	3.6 Column vectors, row vectors, and matrices	38
	3.7 Diagonalization of Hermitian operators	40
	3.8 Trace	42
	3.9 Positive operators and density matrices	43

viii	<i>Contents</i>	
	3.10 Functions of operators	45
4	Physical properties	47
	4.1 Classical and quantum properties	47
	4.2 Toy model and spin half	48
	4.3 Continuous quantum systems	51
	4.4 Negation of properties (NOT)	54
	4.5 Conjunction and disjunction (AND, OR)	57
	4.6 Incompatible properties	60
5	Probabilities and physical variables	65
	5.1 Classical sample space and event algebra	65
	5.2 Quantum sample space and event algebra	68
	5.3 Refinement, coarsening, and compatibility	71
	5.4 Probabilities and ensembles	73
	5.5 Random variables and physical variables	76
	5.6 Averages	79
6	Composite systems and tensor products	81
	6.1 Introduction	81
	6.2 Definition of tensor products	82
	6.3 Examples of composite quantum systems	85
	6.4 Product operators	87
	6.5 General operators, matrix elements, partial traces	89
	6.6 Product properties and product of sample spaces	92
7	Unitary dynamics	94
	7.1 The Schrödinger equation	94
	7.2 Unitary operators	99
	7.3 Time development operators	100
	7.4 Toy models	102
8	Stochastic histories	108
	8.1 Introduction	108
	8.2 Classical histories	109
	8.3 Quantum histories	111
	8.4 Extensions and logical operations on histories	112
	8.5 Sample spaces and families of histories	116
	8.6 Refinements of histories	118
	8.7 Unitary histories	119
9	The Born rule	121
	9.1 Classical random walk	121

<i>Contents</i>		ix
9.2	Single-time probabilities	124
9.3	The Born rule	126
9.4	Wave function as a pre-probability	129
9.5	Application: Alpha decay	131
9.6	Schrödinger's cat	134
10	Consistent histories	137
10.1	Chain operators and weights	137
10.2	Consistency conditions and consistent families	140
10.3	Examples of consistent and inconsistent families	143
10.4	Refinement and compatibility	146
11	Checking consistency	148
11.1	Introduction	148
11.2	Support of a consistent family	148
11.3	Initial and final projectors	149
11.4	Heisenberg representation	151
11.5	Fixed initial state	152
11.6	Initial pure state. Chain kets	154
11.7	Unitary extensions	155
11.8	Intrinsically inconsistent histories	157
12	Examples of consistent families	159
12.1	Toy beam splitter	159
12.2	Beam splitter with detector	165
12.3	Time-elapse detector	169
12.4	Toy alpha decay	171
13	Quantum interference	174
13.1	Two-slit and Mach–Zehnder interferometers	174
13.2	Toy Mach–Zehnder interferometer	178
13.3	Detector in output of interferometer	183
13.4	Detector in internal arm of interferometer	186
13.5	Weak detectors in internal arms	188
14	Dependent (contextual) events	192
14.1	An example	192
14.2	Classical analogy	193
14.3	Contextual properties and conditional probabilities	195
14.4	Dependent events in histories	196
15	Density matrices	202
15.1	Introduction	202

15.2	Density matrix as a pre-probability	203
15.3	Reduced density matrix for subsystem	204
15.4	Time dependence of reduced density matrix	207
15.5	Reduced density matrix as initial condition	209
15.6	Density matrix for isolated system	211
15.7	Conditional density matrices	213
16	Quantum reasoning	216
16.1	Some general principles	216
16.2	Example: Toy beam splitter	219
16.3	Internal consistency of quantum reasoning	222
16.4	Interpretation of multiple frameworks	224
17	Measurements I	228
17.1	Introduction	228
17.2	Microscopic measurement	230
17.3	Macroscopic measurement, first version	233
17.4	Macroscopic measurement, second version	236
17.5	General destructive measurements	240
18	Measurements II	243
18.1	Beam splitter and successive measurements	243
18.2	Wave function collapse	246
18.3	Nondestructive Stern–Gerlach measurements	249
18.4	Measurements and incompatible families	252
18.5	General nondestructive measurements	257
19	Coins and counterfactuals	261
19.1	Quantum paradoxes	261
19.2	Quantum coins	262
19.3	Stochastic counterfactuals	265
19.4	Quantum counterfactuals	268
20	Delayed choice paradox	273
20.1	Statement of the paradox	273
20.2	Unitary dynamics	275
20.3	Some consistent families	276
20.4	Quantum coin toss and counterfactual paradox	279
20.5	Conclusion	282
21	Indirect measurement paradox	284
21.1	Statement of the paradox	284
21.2	Unitary dynamics	286

		<i>Contents</i>	xi
	21.3	Comparing M_{in} and M_{out}	287
	21.4	Delayed choice version	290
	21.5	Interaction-free measurement?	293
	21.6	Conclusion	295
22		Incompatibility paradoxes	296
	22.1	Simultaneous values	296
	22.2	Value functionals	298
	22.3	Paradox of two spins	299
	22.4	Truth functionals	301
	22.5	Paradox of three boxes	304
	22.6	Truth functionals for histories	308
23		Singlet state correlations	310
	23.1	Introduction	310
	23.2	Spin correlations	311
	23.3	Histories for three times	313
	23.4	Measurements of one spin	315
	23.5	Measurements of two spins	319
24		EPR paradox and Bell inequalities	323
	24.1	Bohm version of the EPR paradox	323
	24.2	Counterfactuals and the EPR paradox	326
	24.3	EPR and hidden variables	329
	24.4	Bell inequalities	332
25		Hardy's paradox	336
	25.1	Introduction	336
	25.2	The first paradox	338
	25.3	Analysis of the first paradox	341
	25.4	The second paradox	343
	25.5	Analysis of the second paradox	344
26		Decoherence and the classical limit	349
	26.1	Introduction	349
	26.2	Particle in an interferometer	350
	26.3	Density matrix	352
	26.4	Random environment	354
	26.5	Consistency of histories	356
	26.6	Decoherence and classical physics	356
27		Quantum theory and reality	360
	27.1	Introduction	360

27.2	Quantum vs. classical reality	361
27.3	Multiple incompatible descriptions	362
27.4	The macroscopic world	365
27.5	Conclusion	368
	<i>Bibliography</i>	371
	<i>References</i>	377
	<i>Index</i>	383