

**LECTURE 8 — 10/19/2020**  
**WEYL QUANTIZATION VIA LINEAR EXPONENTIALS**

1. QUANTIZING LINEAR EXPONENTIALS

¶ **From polynomials to the exponential function.**

Last time, by using symplectic invariance we proved that the Weyl quantization has many nice properties on polynomials, e.g.

$$\widehat{(x + \xi)^\alpha}^W = (Q + P)^\alpha.$$

In PSet 2 you will be asked to prove similar expressions like

$$\widehat{(ax + b\xi)^\alpha}^W = (aQ + bP)^\alpha$$

and

$$\widehat{(a \cdot x + b \cdot \xi)^n}^W = (a \cdot Q + b \cdot P)^n.$$

Note that in the first expression we used abbreviations

$$(ax + b\xi)^\alpha = (a_1x_1 + b_1\xi_1)^{\alpha_1} \cdots (a_nx_n + b_n\xi_n)^{\alpha_n}$$

while in the second expression,

$$(a \cdot x + b \cdot \xi)^n = (a_1x_1 + \cdots + a_nx_n + b_1\xi_1 + \cdots + b_n\xi_n)^n.$$

As a consequence of the second fact (together with the Taylor expansion of the exponential function), *formally* we would expect to have

$$\widehat{e^{a \cdot x + b \cdot \xi}}^W = e^{a \cdot Q + b \cdot P}.$$

Of course we need to justify the meaning of  $e^{a \cdot Q + b \cdot P}$ . We can't just formally define

$$e^{a \cdot Q + b \cdot P} = \sum_{k \geq 0} \frac{1}{k!} (a \cdot Q + b \cdot P)^k$$

because the operators  $Q$  and  $P$  are unbounded and we will encounter convergence problem. However, in what follows we will show that for  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , we may define the operator

$$e^{it(a \cdot Q + b \cdot P)/\hbar}$$

which is a well-defined (unitary) operator. [This is a special case of *Stone's theorem* that we will discuss later.]

¶ **DETOUR: The Baker-Campbell-Hausdorff formula: a special case.**

To understand the operator  $e^{it(a\cdot Q+b\cdot P)/\hbar}$ , let's start with some general discussion.

Suppose  $A$  is a bounded linear operator defined on a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$ . Then one can define the exponential of  $A$  to be the operator

$$e^A := \sum_{k \geq 0} \frac{1}{k!} A^k$$

which is also a bounded linear operator on  $\mathcal{H}$ . It is easy to check

$$\frac{d}{dt} e^{tA} = A e^{tA} = e^{tA} A.$$

It follows that for any  $\varphi_0 \in \mathcal{H}$ , the function  $\varphi(t) := e^{tA} \varphi_0$  solves the equation

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d}{dt} \varphi(t) = A \varphi(t), \\ \varphi(0) = \varphi_0. \end{cases}$$

We say the operator  $e^{tA}$  is the *solution operator* to the above equation.

Now we assume  $A$  and  $B$  are bounded linear operators. Then  $A + B$  is again bounded and we have

$$e^{A+B} = \sum_{k \geq 0} \frac{1}{k!} (A + B)^k.$$

However, due to the non-commutativity of operator composition, in general

$$e^{A+B} \neq e^A e^B.$$

There is a formula called the *Baker-Campbell-Hausdorff formula*<sup>1</sup> which describes the relation between  $e^{A+B}$  and  $e^A e^B$ . Here we prove a special case:

**Theorem 1.1** (Baker-Campbell-Hausdorff formula, a special case). *Suppose  $A, B$  are bounded linear operator on  $\mathcal{H}$  and*

$$[A, [A, B]] = 0, \quad [B, [A, B]] = 0,$$

then

$$(1) \quad e^{A+B} = e^{-[A,B]/2} e^A e^B.$$

*Proof.* We will prove: for any  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$e^{t(A+B)} = e^{-t^2[A,B]/2} e^{tA} e^{tB}.$$

We calculate the derivative of the right hand side via the Leibnitz rule:

$$\frac{d}{dt} (e^{-t^2[A,B]/2} e^{tA} e^{tB}) = -t[A, B] e^{-t^2[A,B]/2} e^{tA} e^{tB} + e^{-t^2[A,B]/2} A e^{tA} e^{tB} + e^{-t^2[A,B]/2} e^{tA} B e^{tB}.$$

Since  $[A, B]$  commutes with  $A$  and thus with  $e^{tA}$ , we have

$$\frac{d}{dt} (e^{tA} B e^{-tA}) = e^{tA} (AB - BA) e^{-tA} = [A, B]$$

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<sup>1</sup>See my Lie group notes for the general Baker-Campbell-Hausdorff formula on Lie groups.

and thus by integration,

$$e^{tA} B e^{-tA} = B + t[A, B].$$

It follows (using the fact “[ $A, B$ ], and thus  $e^{-t^2[A, B]/2}$ , commutes with everything”)

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt}(e^{-t^2[A, B]/2} e^{tA} e^{tB}) &= (-t[A, B] + A + B + t[A, B])e^{-t^2[A, B]/2} e^{tA} e^{tB} \\ &= (A + B)e^{-t^2[A, B]/2} e^{tA} e^{tB}. \end{aligned}$$

It follows that for any  $\varphi_0 \in \mathcal{H}$ , both  $\varphi(t) = e^{t(A+B)}\varphi_0$  and  $\varphi(t) = e^{-t^2[A, B]/2} e^{tA} e^{tB} \varphi_0$  solve the equation

$$\frac{d}{dt}\varphi(t) = (A + B)\varphi(t)$$

with the same initial condition  $\varphi(0) = \varphi_0$ . So we conclude  $e^{t(A+B)} = e^{-t^2[A, B]/2} e^{tA} e^{tB}$  holds for all  $t$  and thus the theorem is proved.  $\square$

### ¶ The operator $e^{it(a\cdot Q + b\cdot P)/\hbar}$ .

Suppose  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . Before we study the operator  $e^{it(a\cdot Q + b\cdot P)/\hbar}$ , let's first look at two simpler operators  $e^{ita\cdot Q/\hbar}$  and  $e^{itb\cdot P/\hbar}$ .

- We can define  $e^{ita\cdot Q/\hbar}$  to be the solution operator to the equation

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial}{\partial t}\varphi(t, x) = \frac{ia\cdot Q}{\hbar}\varphi(t, x), \\ \varphi(0, x) = \varphi_0(x). \end{cases}$$

[For simplicity, we always start with  $\varphi_0 \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .] It is trivial to check

$$(2) \quad e^{ita\cdot Q/\hbar} = \text{multiplication by the function } e^{ita\cdot x/\hbar}$$

In other words, we have

$$(3) \quad \widehat{e^{ita\cdot x/\hbar}}^W = e^{ita\cdot Q/\hbar}.$$

- Similarly we define  $e^{itb\cdot P/\hbar}$  to be the solution operator to the equation

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial}{\partial t}\varphi(t, x) = \frac{ib\cdot P}{\hbar}\varphi(t, x), \\ \varphi(0, x) = \varphi_0(x). \end{cases}$$

It is also trivial to check that the solution is

$$(4) \quad (e^{itb\cdot P/\hbar}\varphi)(x) = \varphi(x + tb).$$

Moreover, by the Fourier inversion formula,

$$\begin{aligned} (\widehat{e^{itb\cdot \xi/\hbar}}^W \varphi)(x) &= \frac{1}{(2\pi\hbar)^n} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} e^{i\frac{(x-y)\cdot \xi}{\hbar}} e^{i\frac{tb\cdot \xi}{\hbar}} \varphi(y) dy d\xi \\ &= \frac{1}{(2\pi\hbar)^n} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} e^{i\frac{(x+tb-y)\cdot \xi}{\hbar}} \varphi(y) dy d\xi = \varphi(x + tb) \end{aligned}$$

So we still have

$$(5) \quad \widehat{e^{itb\cdot \xi/\hbar}}^W = e^{itb\cdot P/\hbar}.$$

Now we are ready to study the operator  $e^{it(a\cdot Q+b\cdot P)/\hbar}$ , which by definition, is the solution operator to the equation

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial}{\partial t}\varphi(t, x) = \frac{i(a\cdot Q+b\cdot P)}{\hbar}\varphi(t, x), \\ \varphi(0, x) = \varphi_0(x). \end{cases}$$

In general, equations of this type could be hard to solve because the non-commutativity of the operators involved. However, for the position operator  $Q$  and the momentum operator  $P$ , the canonical commutative relation gives us

$$[a \cdot Q, b \cdot P] = \sum_k a_k b_k [Q_k, P_k] = -\frac{\hbar}{i} a \cdot b \text{ Id},$$

which commutes with any operator. It turns out that the Baker-Campbell-Hausdorff formula alluded to above still holds, namely,

$$e^{\frac{it(a\cdot Q+b\cdot P)}{\hbar}} = e^{-[\frac{ita\cdot Q}{\hbar}, \frac{itb\cdot P}{\hbar}]/2} e^{\frac{ita\cdot Q}{\hbar}} e^{\frac{itb\cdot P}{\hbar}}.$$

To see this, let's first compute

$$e^{-[\frac{ita\cdot Q}{\hbar}, \frac{itb\cdot P}{\hbar}]/2} e^{\frac{ita\cdot Q}{\hbar}} e^{\frac{itb\cdot P}{\hbar}} \varphi(x) = e^{\frac{it^2}{2\hbar} a\cdot b} e^{\frac{it}{\hbar} a\cdot x} \varphi(x + tb).$$

Now we prove

**Proposition 1.2.** *We have*

$$(6) \quad (e^{it(a\cdot Q+b\cdot P)/\hbar} \varphi)(x) = e^{\frac{it^2}{2\hbar} a\cdot b} e^{\frac{it}{\hbar} a\cdot x} \varphi(x + tb).$$

*Proof.* This follows from a direct computation:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left[ e^{\frac{it^2}{2\hbar} a\cdot b} e^{\frac{it}{\hbar} a\cdot x} \varphi(x + tb) \right] &= \frac{i}{\hbar} a \cdot x \left[ e^{\frac{it^2}{2\hbar} a\cdot b} e^{\frac{it}{\hbar} a\cdot x} \varphi(x + tb) \right] \\ &\quad + \frac{it}{\hbar} a \cdot b \left[ e^{\frac{it^2}{2\hbar} a\cdot b} e^{\frac{it}{\hbar} a\cdot x} \varphi(x + tb) \right] + \left[ e^{\frac{it^2}{2\hbar} a\cdot b} e^{\frac{it}{\hbar} a\cdot x} b \cdot \nabla \varphi(x + tb) \right] \\ &= \frac{i}{\hbar} a \cdot x \left[ e^{\frac{it^2}{2\hbar} a\cdot b} e^{\frac{it}{\hbar} a\cdot x} \varphi(x + tb) \right] + e^{\frac{it^2}{2\hbar} a\cdot b} (b \cdot \nabla) \left[ e^{\frac{it}{\hbar} a\cdot x} \varphi(x + tb) \right] \\ &= \left( \frac{i}{\hbar} a \cdot Q + \frac{i}{\hbar} b \cdot P \right) \left[ e^{\frac{it^2}{2\hbar} a\cdot b} e^{\frac{it}{\hbar} a\cdot x} b \cdot \nabla \varphi(x + tb) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

□

As a consequence (and as we can expect), we also have

**Corollary 1.3.**

$$(7) \quad \widehat{e^{it(a\cdot x+b\cdot \xi)/\hbar}}^W = e^{it(a\cdot Q+b\cdot P)/\hbar}.$$

*Proof.* To see this, we calculate

$$\begin{aligned}
\widehat{e^{it(a \cdot x + b \cdot \xi)/\hbar}}^W \varphi(x) &= \frac{1}{(2\pi\hbar)^n} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}(x-y) \cdot \xi} e^{\frac{it}{\hbar}(a \cdot \frac{x+y}{2} + b \cdot \xi)} \varphi(y) dy d\xi \\
&= \frac{1}{(2\pi\hbar)^n} e^{\frac{it}{2\hbar} a \cdot x} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}(x-y+tb) \cdot \xi} e^{\frac{it}{2\hbar} a \cdot y} \varphi(y) dy d\xi \\
&= \frac{1}{(2\pi\hbar)^n} e^{\frac{it}{2\hbar} a \cdot x} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}(x-y) \cdot \xi} e^{\frac{it}{2\hbar} a \cdot (y+tb)} \varphi(y+tb) dy d\xi \\
&= e^{\frac{it^2}{2\hbar} a \cdot b} e^{\frac{it}{\hbar} a \cdot x} \varphi(x+tb).
\end{aligned}$$

□

### ¶ Weyl quantization: Weyl's definition.

Now we are ready to give a different way to define the Weyl quantization  $\hat{a}^W$ , which is in fact Weyl's original definition!

Given a symbol  $a(x, \xi)$  (which could be a tempered distribution), consider the semiclassical Fourier transform  $(\mathcal{F}_\hbar)_{(x,\xi) \rightarrow (y,\eta)}$ ,

$$(8) \quad [(\mathcal{F}_\hbar)_{(x,\xi) \rightarrow (y,\eta)} a](y, \eta) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2n}} e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar}(x \cdot y + \xi \cdot \eta)} a(x, \xi) dx d\xi.$$

The Fourier inversion formula gives

$$a(x, \xi) = \frac{1}{(2\pi\hbar)^{2n}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2n}} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}(y \cdot x + \eta \cdot \xi)} [(\mathcal{F}_\hbar)_{(x,\xi) \rightarrow (y,\eta)} a](y, \eta) dy d\eta.$$

To quantize a function  $f$ , Weyl wrote<sup>2</sup>:

A quantity  $f$  is consequently carried over from classical to quantum mechanics in accordance with the rule: *replace  $p$  and  $q$  in Fourier development (14.8) of  $f$  by the Hermitian operators representing them in quantum mechanics.*

In other words, Weyl quantize the function  $a(x, \xi)$  to the operator

$$(9) \quad \hat{a}^W = \frac{1}{(2\pi\hbar)^{2n}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2n}} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}(y \cdot Q + \eta \cdot P)} [(\mathcal{F}_\hbar)_{(s,\xi) \rightarrow (y,\eta)} a](y, \eta) dy d\eta,$$

which, when acting on a Schwartz function  $\varphi$ , yields

$$(\hat{a}^W \varphi)(x) = \frac{1}{(2\pi\hbar)^{2n}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2n}} \left[ e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}(y \cdot Q + \eta \cdot P)} \varphi \right] (x) [(\mathcal{F}_\hbar)_{(s,\xi) \rightarrow (y,\eta)} a](y, \eta) dy d\eta.$$

We have to show that Weyl's original definition coincides with the one we gave earlier:

<sup>2</sup>c.f. H. Weyl, *The Theory of Groups and Quantum Mechanics*, page 275, Dover, 1950. The first German edition was published in 1928.

**Theorem 1.4.** *The two definitions of Weyl quantization coincides:*

$$\widehat{a}^W = \frac{1}{(2\pi\hbar)^{2n}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2n}} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}(y \cdot Q + \eta \cdot P)} [(\mathcal{F}_\hbar)_{(s,\xi) \rightarrow (y,\eta)} a](y, \eta) dy d\eta.$$

*Proof of Theorem 1.4.* Applying the right hand side of (9) to  $\varphi$ , and using Proposition 1.2, we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{(2\pi\hbar)^{2n}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2n}} \left[ e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}(y \cdot Q + \eta \cdot P)} \varphi \right] (x) [(\mathcal{F}_\hbar)_{(s,\xi) \rightarrow (y,\eta)} a](y, \eta) dy d\eta \\ &= \frac{1}{(2\pi\hbar)^{2n}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2n}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2n}} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}y \cdot x + \frac{i}{2\hbar}y \cdot \eta} \varphi(x + \eta) e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar}(s \cdot y + \xi \cdot \eta)} a(s, \xi) ds d\xi dy d\eta \\ &= \frac{1}{(2\pi\hbar)^{2n}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2n}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2n}} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}y \cdot (\frac{x}{2} + \frac{\tau}{2} - s)} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}\xi \cdot (x - \tau)} \varphi(\tau) a(s, \xi) ds d\xi dy d\tau \quad (\eta \rightarrow \tau = x + \eta) \\ &= \frac{1}{(2\pi\hbar)^{2n}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2n}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2n}} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}y \cdot \zeta} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}\xi \cdot (x - \tau)} \varphi(\tau) a\left(\frac{x + \tau}{2} - \zeta, \xi\right) d\zeta dy d\tau d\xi \quad (s \rightarrow \zeta = \frac{x + \tau}{2} - s) \\ &= \frac{1}{(2\pi\hbar)^n} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2n}} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}\xi \cdot (x - \tau)} \varphi(\tau) a\left(\frac{x + \tau}{2}, \xi\right) d\tau d\xi, \end{aligned}$$

where in the last step we used the Fourier inversion formula.  $\square$

## 2. DETOUR: SOME FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS

In this section we list some definitions and theorems related to self-adjoint operators from functional analysis. For details, c.f. *Reed-Simon, Methods of modern mathematical physics Vol I*, or *B. Hall, Quantum Theory for Mathematicians*.

### ¶ Self-adjointness.

**Definition 2.1.** Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a Hilbert space and  $\mathcal{D}(A) \subset \mathcal{H}$  a subspace.

- (1) A linear operator  $A : \mathcal{D}(A) \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  is called *closed* if its graph

$$\text{graph}(A) = \{(x, Ax) \mid x \in \mathcal{D}(A)\}$$

is a closed subspace of  $\mathcal{H} \times \mathcal{H}$ .

- (2) We say  $B : \mathcal{D}(B) \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  an *extension* of  $A$  if  $\mathcal{D}(A) \subset \mathcal{D}(B)$  and  $Ax = Bx$  for all  $x \in \mathcal{D}(A)$ . In this case we will denote  $A \subset B$ .
- (3) For any linear operator  $A : \mathcal{D}(A) \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$ , the smallest closed extension of  $A$  (if exists) is called the *closure* of  $A$  and is denoted by  $\overline{A}$ .
- (4) The *adjoint* of a densely defined linear operator  $A : \mathcal{D}(A) \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  is an linear operator  $A^* : \mathcal{D}(A^*) \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  so that

$$\langle Ax, y \rangle = \langle x, A^*y \rangle,$$

where  $\mathcal{D}(A^*) := \{y \in \mathcal{H} \mid \exists C > 0 \text{ s.t. } \langle Ax, y \rangle \leq C\|x\| \text{ for } \forall x \in \mathcal{D}(A)\}$ .

- (5) A densely defined linear operator  $A : \mathcal{D}(A) \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  is *symmetric* if  $A \subset A^*$ .
- (6) A densely defined linear operator  $A : \mathcal{D}(A) \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  is *self-adjoint* if  $A = A^*$ .

(7) A densely defined linear operator  $A : \mathcal{D}(A) \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  is *essentially self-adjoint* if  $\overline{A} = A^*$ .

A useful criteria for a symmetric operator to be self-adjoint is

**Theorem 2.2.** *Let  $A$  be a symmetric operator on  $\mathcal{H}$ . Then*

- (1)  *$A$  is essentially self-adjoint if and only if the images of the operators  $A \pm i$  are dense in  $\mathcal{H}$ .*
- (2)  *$A$  is self-adjoint if and only if the images of the operators  $A \pm i$  are  $\mathcal{H}$ .*

One of the most important theorems for self-adjoint operators acting on a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$  is

**Theorem 2.3** (The spectral theorem (multiplication form)). *Suppose  $A$  is a self-adjoint operator on  $\mathcal{H}$ . Then there is measurable space  $(X, \mu)$ , a measurable real-valued function  $h$  on  $X$ , and a unitary map  $V : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow L^2(X, \mu)$  such that  $A$  is unitary equivalent via  $V$  to the operator “multiplication by  $h(x)$ ” on  $L^2(X, \mu)$ , namely*

$$(10) \quad V \circ A \circ V^*(\psi)(x) = h(x)\psi(x).$$

As a consequence, for any measurable function  $f$  on  $\mathbb{R}$  (or on  $\sigma(A)$ ), we may define an operator  $f(A)$  via

$$f(A) = V^* \circ M_{f(h(x))} \circ V.$$

In general this might be complicated and might have a very small domain if  $f$  is unbounded. However, if  $f$  is a bounded function, then  $f(A)$  will be a bounded linear operator on  $\mathcal{H}$ . In particular, if we take  $f(x) = e^{itx}$ , then the operator

$$(11) \quad e^{itA} = V^* \circ M_{e^{ith(x)}} \circ V$$

is defined on the whole of  $\mathcal{H}$  and is unitary.

As a consequence of the spectral theorem (multiplication form), together with PSet 1-8 we immediately get the following theorem which will be used later in the proof of Weyl law:

**Corollary 2.4** (Helffer-Sjöstrand). *Let  $P$  be a self-adjoint operator on  $\mathcal{H}$ ,  $f$  be a Schwartz function and  $\tilde{f}$  be an almost analytic extension of  $f$ . Then*

$$(12) \quad f(P) = \frac{1}{\pi i} \int_{\mathbb{C}} \bar{\partial}_z \tilde{f}(z) (P - z)^{-1} dm.$$

### ¶ Stone’s theorem.

We need to justify that the operators  $e^{itA}$  defined by the spectral theorem coincides with the ones defined as the solution operator to suitable partial differential equations. This is known as the Stone’s theorem.

**Definition 2.5.** Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a Hilbert space.

- (1) A *one-parameter unitary group*  $U(t)$ ,  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ , is a family of unitary operators on  $\mathcal{H}$  such that  $U(0) = \text{Id}$  and

$$U(s+t) = U(s)U(t), \quad \forall s, t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

- (2) A one-parameter unitary group  $U(t)$  is said to be (*strongly continuous*) if

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} U(t)x = U(t_0)x$$

for each  $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$  and each  $x \in \mathcal{H}$ .

For example, one can check that the three families

$$e^{ita \cdot Q/\hbar}, \quad e^{itb \cdot P/\hbar}, \quad e^{it(a \cdot Q + b \cdot P)/\hbar}$$

form three strongly continuous one-parameter unitary groups.

It turns out that self-adjoint operators on  $\mathcal{H}$  and strongly continuous one-parameter unitary groups on  $\mathcal{H}$  are closely related to each other:

**Theorem 2.6** (Stone's Theorem). *Suppose  $A : \mathcal{D}(A) \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  is self-adjoint. Then*

$$U(t) = e^{itA}$$

*is a strongly continuous one-parameter unitary group on  $\mathcal{H}$ , and satisfies*

$$(13) \quad \lim_{\hbar \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{i} \frac{U(t+\hbar)\psi - U(t)\psi}{\hbar} = AU(t)\psi = U(t)A\psi$$

*for all  $\psi \in \text{Dom}(A)$  and all  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ .*

*Conversely, if  $U(t)$  is a strongly continuous one-parameter unitary group on  $\mathcal{H}$ , then the operator  $A$  (called the infinitesimal generator of  $U(t)$ ) defined via*

$$A\psi = \lim_{\hbar \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{i} \frac{U(\hbar)\psi - \psi}{\hbar}$$

*is densely defined and self-adjoint, and  $U(t) = e^{itA}$ .*

This justifies our definitions of  $e^{ita \cdot Q/\hbar}$ ,  $e^{itb \cdot P/\hbar}$  and  $e^{it(a \cdot Q + b \cdot P)/\hbar}$  as the solution operators to suitable partial differential equations.

## ¶ A functional calculus.

We just mentioned how to define  $f(A)$  via the spectral theorem. There is however another way to define  $f(A)$  via the unitary group  $U(t) = e^{itA}$ , which is very similar to the way Weyl define his quantization: start with the Fourier inversion formula

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{itx} \hat{f}(t) dt.$$

and define

$$(14) \quad f(A) := \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{itA} \hat{f}(t) dt.$$

Of course in this definition one need to assume  $f$  to be a function whose Fourier transform  $\hat{f} = \mathcal{F}f \in L^1$ .