

Number States (Fock States)

The total energy of a simple harmonic oscillator is given by -

$$E = \frac{p^2}{2m} + \frac{1}{2} m \omega^2 x^2 \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

$p =$ momentum

$\omega =$ oscillation freq.

$x =$ position

$m =$ Mass.

The corresponding operator is called Hamiltonian operator

$$\hat{H} = \frac{\hat{p}^2}{2m} + \frac{1}{2} m \omega^2 \hat{x}^2 \quad ; \quad \hat{p} = -i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

Here \hat{x} , \hat{p} are two Hermitian operators. Now we define two non-Hermitian operators a and a^\dagger such that

$$a = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2m\omega\hbar}} (\hat{x} + i\hat{p}) \quad \text{--- (3a)} \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} \Rightarrow \hat{x} = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2m\omega}} (a + a^\dagger) \\ \Rightarrow \hat{p} = \end{array} \right\}$$

$$\text{and } a^\dagger = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2m\omega\hbar}} (\hat{x} - i\hat{p}) \quad \text{--- (3b)}$$

In terms of this two non Hermitian operators a and a^\dagger , the Hamiltonian operator \hat{H} can be written as.

$$\hat{H} = \hbar\omega (a^\dagger a + \frac{1}{2}). \quad \text{--- (4)}$$

Here $a^\dagger a$ is called the number operator \hat{n} .

Here \hat{a} is called the destruction or annihilation operator

as it annihilate one quantum of energy and a^\dagger is called creation operator as it does the opposite

\hat{a} and \hat{a}^\dagger do not commute.

$$[\hat{a}, \hat{a}^\dagger] = 1. \quad \text{--- (5)}$$

We can construct the higher energy states from the ground state $|0\rangle$ by operating a^\dagger .

$$a^\dagger |0\rangle = \sqrt{1} |1\rangle \quad \text{as we know } a^\dagger |n\rangle = \sqrt{n+1} |n+1\rangle$$

$$\text{or } |1\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1}} a^\dagger |0\rangle$$

$$\begin{array}{c} |1\rangle \\ \hline a^\dagger \uparrow \\ \hline |0\rangle \end{array}$$

$$a^\dagger |1\rangle = \sqrt{2} |2\rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow |2\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} a^\dagger |1\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} a^\dagger \frac{1}{\sqrt{1}} a^\dagger |0\rangle$$

$$\text{or } |2\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2 \cdot 1}} (a^\dagger)^2 |0\rangle.$$

$$\text{Similarly } |3\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1}} (a^\dagger)^3 |0\rangle \quad \text{and so on.}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{hence } |n\rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{n \cdot (n-1) \cdots 1}} (a^\dagger)^n |0\rangle \\ &= \frac{(a^\dagger)^n}{\sqrt{n!}} |0\rangle. \end{aligned}$$

Now we will calculate the expectation value of $\langle x \rangle$ or x and p in the number state $|n\rangle$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle x \rangle &= \langle n | x | n \rangle = \langle n | x_0 (a + a^\dagger) | n \rangle \\ &= x_0 \langle n | a + a^\dagger | n \rangle = x_0 (\langle n | a | n \rangle + \langle n | a^\dagger | n \rangle) \end{aligned}$$

$$\langle x \rangle_n = 0$$

$$\text{Similarly } \langle p \rangle_n = 0.$$

Thus the expectation value of x and p in the number state $|n\rangle$ is zero.

Now to calculate the fluctuation we use the formula

$$\Delta x = \sqrt{\langle x^2 \rangle - \langle x \rangle^2}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle x^2 \rangle_n &= \langle n | x^2 | n \rangle \\ &= x_0^2 \langle n | (a + a^\dagger)^2 | n \rangle \\ &= x_0^2 \langle n | a^2 + a^{\dagger 2} + a a^\dagger + a^\dagger a | n \rangle \end{aligned}$$

$$= x_0^2 \left[\langle n | a^2 | n \rangle + \langle n | a^{\dagger 2} | n \rangle + \langle n | (1 + 2a^\dagger a) | n \rangle \right]$$

$$= x_0^2 \left[0 + 0 + \langle n | n \rangle + 2 \langle n | a^\dagger a | n \rangle \right]$$

$$= x_0^2 (1 + 2n) = \frac{\hbar}{2m\omega} (2n + 1) ; \quad x_0 = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2m\omega}} \text{ is the zero point oscillator.}$$

$$\langle x^2 \rangle_n = \frac{\hbar}{m\omega} \left(n + \frac{1}{2} \right)$$

and $\langle x \rangle_n = 0$

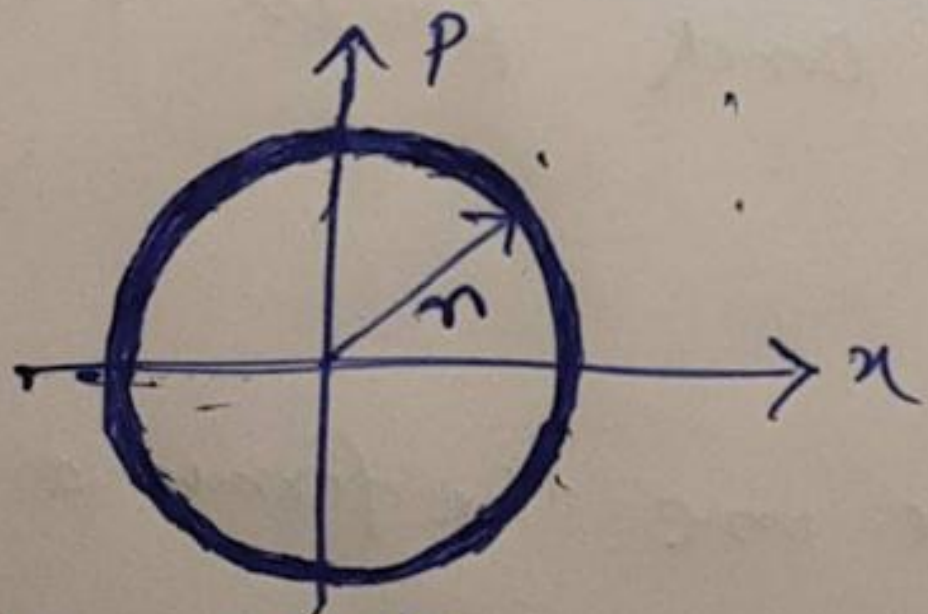
$$\text{so } \Delta x = \left\{ \langle x^2 \rangle - \langle x \rangle^2 \right\}^{1/2} = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{m\omega}} \left(n + \frac{1}{2} \right)^{1/2}$$

Similarly for Δp .

$$\Delta p = \left\{ \langle p^2 \rangle - \langle p \rangle^2 \right\}^{1/2}$$

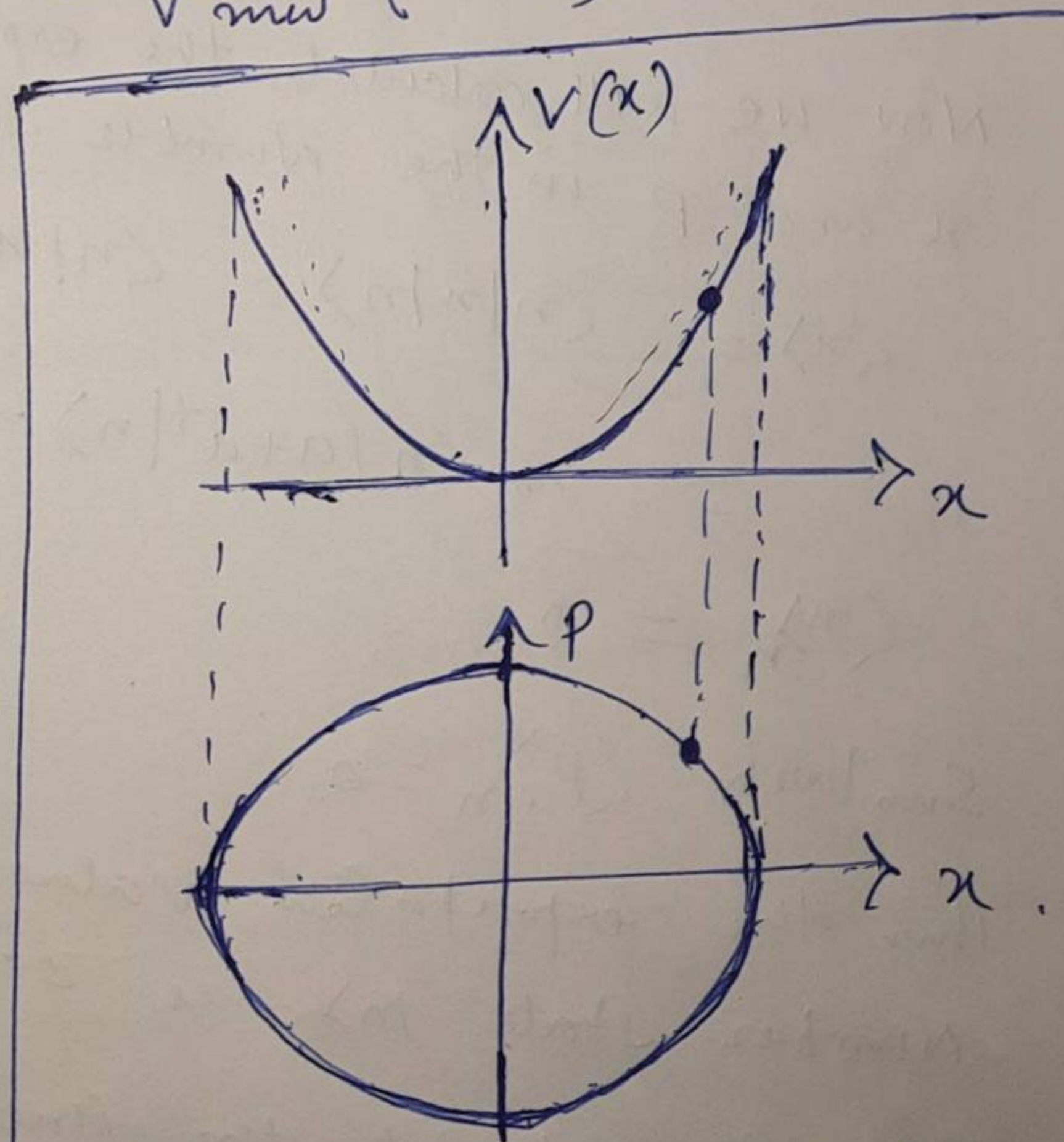
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Thus we see that Δx and Δp do not vanish although $\langle x \rangle = \langle p \rangle = 0$



Focus state

x and p has some fluctuations



Phase space representation of classical harmonic oscillator x, p has a definite value

Time evolution of \hat{a} and \hat{a}^\dagger .

From Heisenberg equation of motion, we have -

$$\dot{a} = \frac{1}{i\hbar} [a, H] \quad ; \quad H = \hbar\omega a^\dagger a,$$

$$\text{or } \dot{a} = \frac{1}{i\hbar} [a, \hbar\omega a^\dagger a]$$

$$= \frac{\hbar\omega}{i\hbar} [a, a^\dagger a]$$

$$= \frac{\hbar\omega}{i\hbar} [a, a^\dagger] a = -i\omega a.$$

$$\frac{da}{dt} = -i\omega a$$

$$\boxed{a(t) = a(0) e^{-i\omega t}} \quad ; \quad a(0) = a(t) \Big|_{t=0}.$$

Similarly $a^\dagger(t) = a^\dagger(0) e^{i\omega t}$

where we neglected the constant zero point oscillation term $\frac{1}{2}\hbar\omega$.

The number states forms a complete set of orthonormality

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} |n\rangle \langle n| = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \langle m | \langle n | = \delta_{mn} = \begin{cases} 0 & m \neq n \\ 1 & m = n \end{cases}$$

Thus the eigenvectors of the number operators are mutually orthogonal.

The average value of \hat{a} in number state $|n\rangle$ is given by -

$$\langle \hat{a} \rangle = \langle n | \hat{a} | n \rangle = \langle n | n-1 \rangle \sqrt{n} = 0$$

$$\text{Similarly } \langle \hat{a}^\dagger \rangle = \sqrt{n+1} \langle n | n+1 \rangle = 0.$$

So, ~~But~~ the average value of electric field $E \propto a + a^\dagger$ is also 0

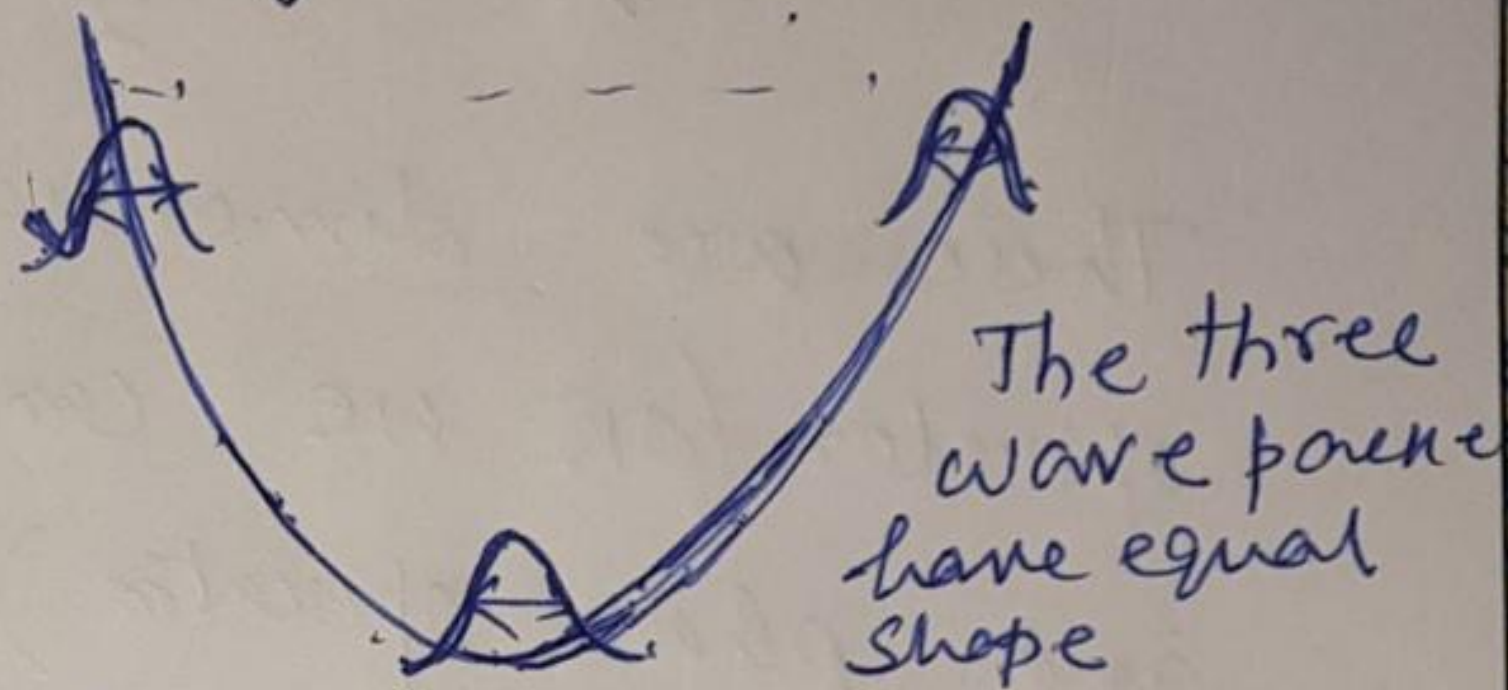
$$\langle \hat{E} \rangle_n = 0.$$

This is not expected classically. Because we have n photons and average electric field vanishes. So Fock states are of purely quantum origin.

Coherent States

The Quantum Mechanical analogue of a classical e.m. wave is called the coherent state. This is a quasiclassical state (normally produced by intense lasers). Coherent states are the eigenstate of the annihilation operator \hat{a} .

$$\hat{a}|\alpha\rangle = \alpha|\alpha\rangle$$

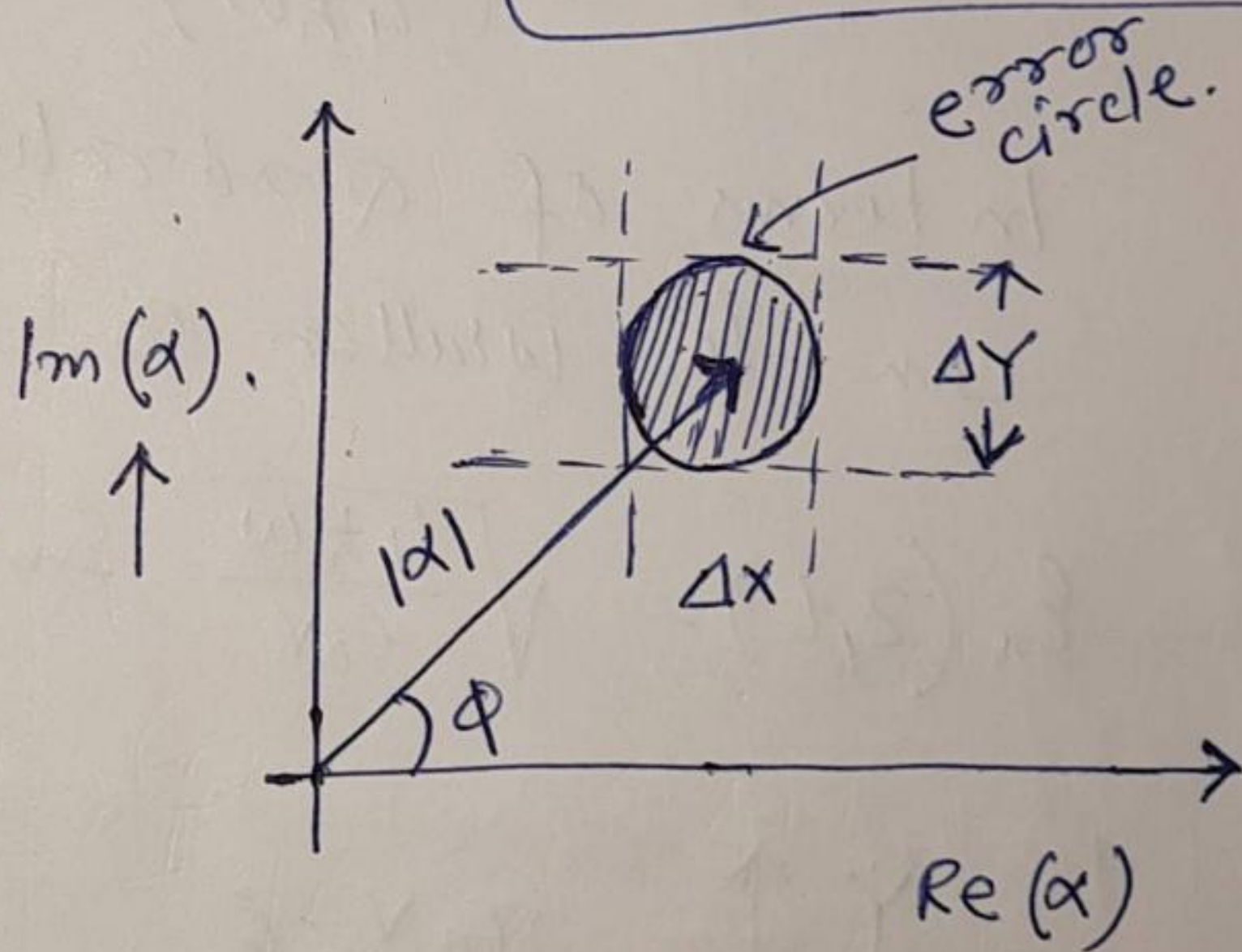


Here $|\alpha\rangle$ is the coherent state.
 $\alpha = |\alpha|e^{i\phi}$ is a complex quantity.
 $|\alpha| =$ Amplitude and ϕ is the phase.

Minimum uncertainty wave packet oscillating in a Harmonic oscillator potential

The complex quantity α can be written as -

$$\alpha = X + iY = \text{Re}(\alpha) + i\text{Im}(\alpha)$$



Here X and Y are two dimensionless quadratures of the field.

$$|\alpha| = \sqrt{X^2 + Y^2}$$

$$X = |\alpha| \cos \phi$$

$$Y = |\alpha| \sin \phi$$

Phasor diagram of coherent state $|\alpha\rangle$.

$$\Delta X = \Delta Y = \frac{1}{2}$$

So they are minimum uncertainty wave packet with equal uncertainties in X and Y .

Classically $|\alpha|$ is related to electric field amplitude.

$$|\alpha| = \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon_0 V}{4\hbar\omega}} \epsilon_0 = \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon_0 V}{4\hbar\omega}} \epsilon_0$$

and

$$E_{\text{class}} = \hbar \omega |a|^2.$$

The Quadrature operators corresponding to the Quadrature observables are -

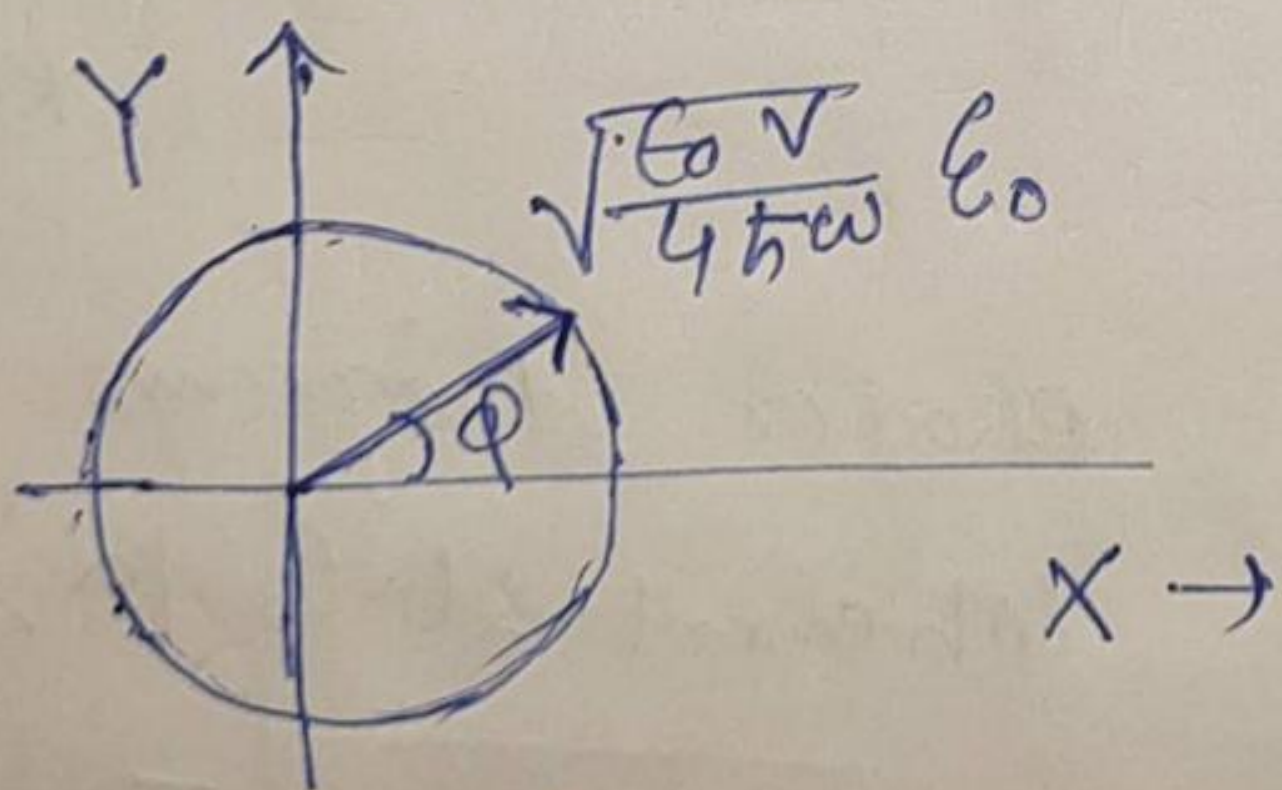
$$\hat{X} = \frac{\hat{a} + \hat{a}^\dagger}{2} \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{Y} = \frac{\hat{a} - \hat{a}^\dagger}{2i}$$

These are dimensionless position and momentum operator (OR we can call dimensionless amplitude and phase operator).

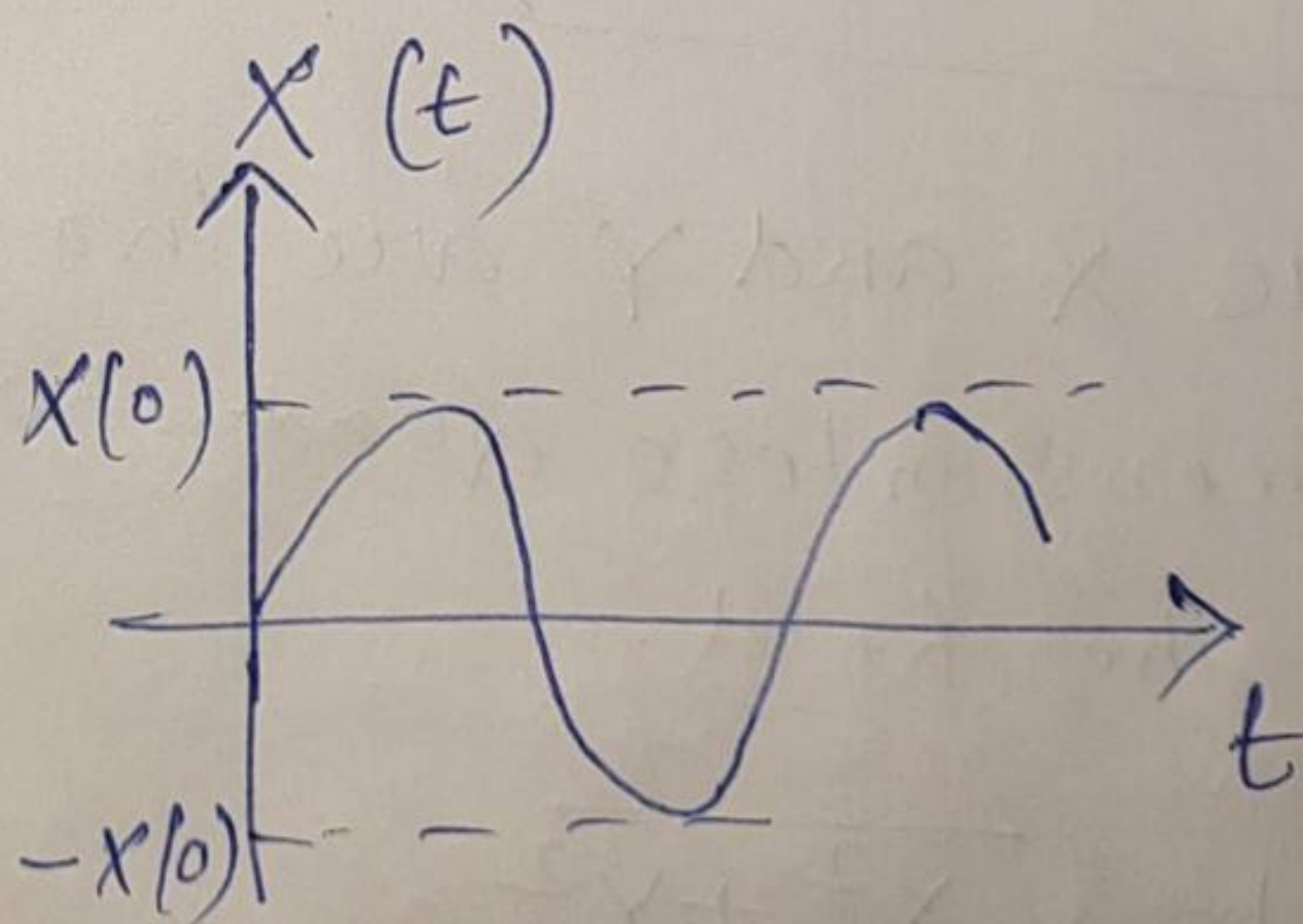
$$\left. \begin{aligned} X(t) &= \left(\frac{\epsilon_0 V}{4 \hbar \omega} \right)^{1/2} \epsilon_0 \sin \omega t. \\ Y(t) &= \left(\frac{\epsilon_0 V}{4 \hbar \omega} \right)^{1/2} \epsilon_0 \cos \omega t. \end{aligned} \right\}$$

In terms of Quadrature operators the electric field can be written as

$$E_x(z, t) = \sqrt{\frac{4 \hbar \omega}{\epsilon_0 V}} \sin k z \left(\cos \phi X(t) + \sin \phi Y(t) \right).$$



Phasor diagram of electric field



Variation of X Quadrature with time t.

Coherent State

The number state representation of coherent state

$$|\alpha\rangle = e^{-|\alpha|^2/2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\alpha^n}{\sqrt{n!}} |n\rangle \quad ; |n\rangle = \text{Fock states}$$

--- (1) $\alpha = \text{complex}$.

This type of coherent state can be produced by displacing the ground (vacuum) state $|0\rangle$.

$$\text{ie } |\alpha\rangle = D(\alpha)|0\rangle \quad \dots (2)$$

Here $D(\alpha) = e^{\alpha a^\dagger - \alpha^* a}$ is the displacement operator.

$D(\alpha)$ is a unitary operator hence

$$D^\dagger(\alpha) D(\alpha) = 1 \quad ; \quad D^\dagger(\alpha) = D(-\alpha)$$

$$D(\alpha) D^\dagger(\alpha) = 1$$

Now we can establish the relation (2) as follows -

$$D(\alpha)|0\rangle = e^{\alpha a^\dagger - \alpha^* a} |0\rangle$$

$$= e^{\alpha a^\dagger} e^{-\alpha^* a} e^{\frac{|\alpha|^2}{2} [a^\dagger, a]} |0\rangle$$

$$= e^{-\frac{|\alpha|^2}{2}} e^{\alpha a^\dagger} e^{-\alpha^* a} |0\rangle$$

$$= e^{-|\alpha|^2/2} e^{\alpha a^\dagger} |0\rangle$$

$$\text{As, } e^{-\alpha^* a} |0\rangle = |0\rangle$$

$$\therefore D(\alpha)|0\rangle = e^{-|\alpha|^2/2} e^{\alpha a^\dagger} |0\rangle$$

Use BCH formula

$$e^{A+B} = e^A e^B$$

$$e^{-\frac{1}{2}[A,B]}$$

provided

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

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

$$D(\alpha)|0\rangle = e^{-|\alpha|^2/2} e^{\alpha a^\dagger} |0\rangle$$

$$= e^{-|\alpha|^2/2} \left[1 + \alpha a^\dagger + \frac{\alpha^2}{2!} a^{\dagger 2} + \dots \right] |0\rangle$$

$$= e^{-|\alpha|^2/2} \left[|0\rangle + \alpha \sqrt{1} |1\rangle + \frac{\alpha^2}{2!} \sqrt{2} |2\rangle + \dots \right]$$

~~$$= e^{-|\alpha|^2/2} \left[|0\rangle + \alpha \sqrt{1} |1\rangle + \frac{\alpha^2}{2!} \sqrt{2} |2\rangle + \dots \right]$$~~

$$D(\alpha)|0\rangle = e^{-|\alpha|^2/2} \left[|0\rangle + \alpha \sqrt{1} |1\rangle + \frac{\alpha^2}{2!} \sqrt{2} \cdot \sqrt{1} |2\rangle + \dots \right]$$

$$= e^{-\frac{|\alpha|^2}{2}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\alpha^n}{\sqrt{n!}} |n\rangle = |\alpha\rangle$$

Thus $D(\alpha)|0\rangle = |\alpha\rangle$

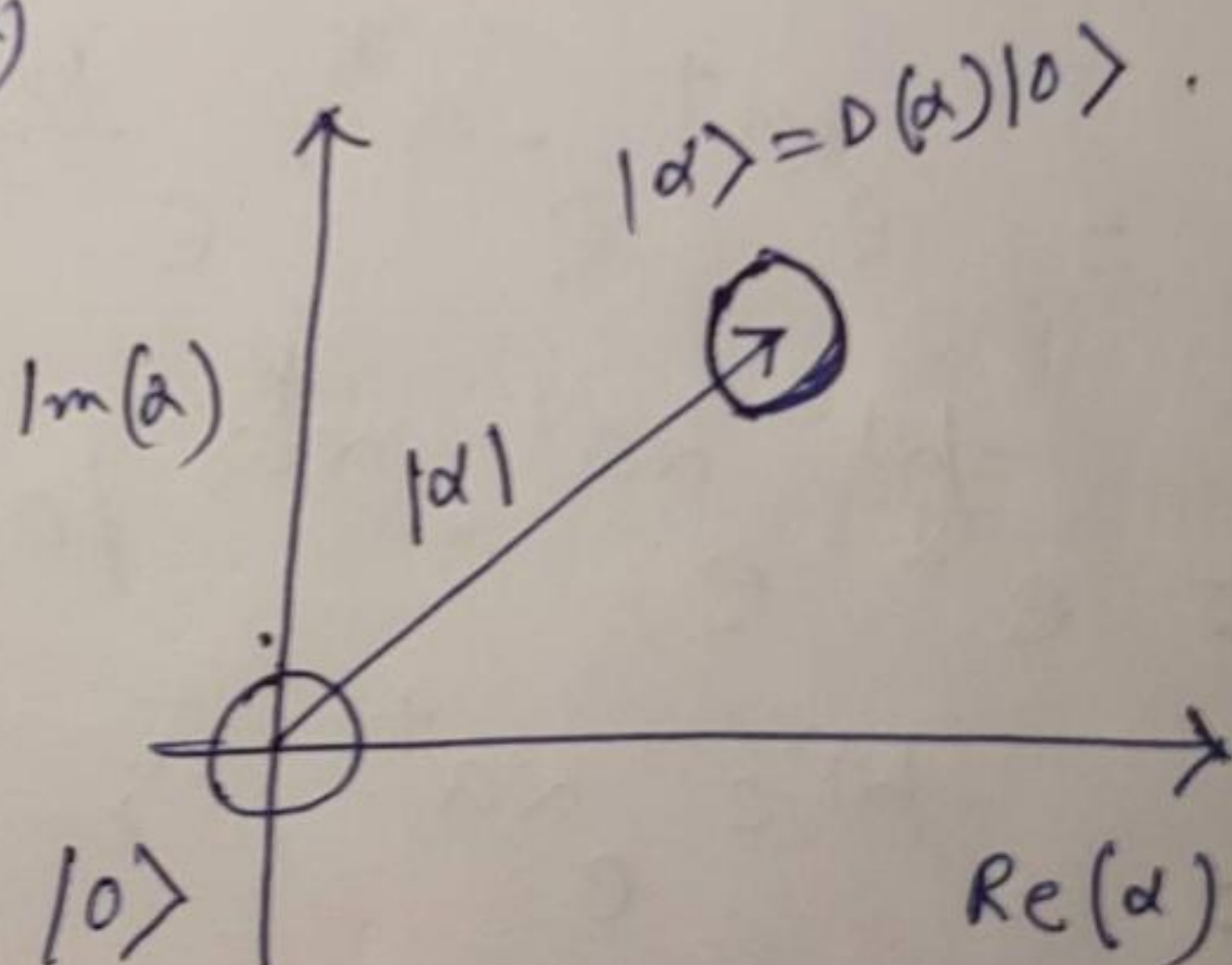
Properties of Displacement operator $D(\alpha)$

$D(\alpha)$ is a unitary operator
 $D^\dagger(\alpha) = D(\alpha)$; $D^\dagger D = D D^\dagger = 1$.

$$D(\alpha)|0\rangle = |\alpha\rangle.$$

$$D^\dagger(\alpha) a D(\alpha) = a + \alpha$$

$$D^\dagger(\alpha) a^\dagger D(\alpha) = a^\dagger + \alpha^*$$



Displacement operator $D(\alpha)$ displaces the vacuum state $|0\rangle$ to coherent state $|\alpha\rangle$

Rotation operator or phase shifting operator:-

The rotation operator or phase shifting operator is given by -

$$R(\theta) = e^{-i\theta\hat{N}}$$

Here $\hat{N} = a^\dagger a$ is the number operator.

Acting on the coherent state -

$$e^{-i\theta\hat{N}} |\alpha\rangle$$

$$= e^{-i\theta a^\dagger a} e^{-\frac{|\alpha|^2}{2}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\alpha^n}{\sqrt{n!}} |n\rangle$$

$$= e^{-\frac{|\alpha|^2}{2}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\alpha^n}{\sqrt{n!}} e^{-i\theta a^\dagger a} |n\rangle$$

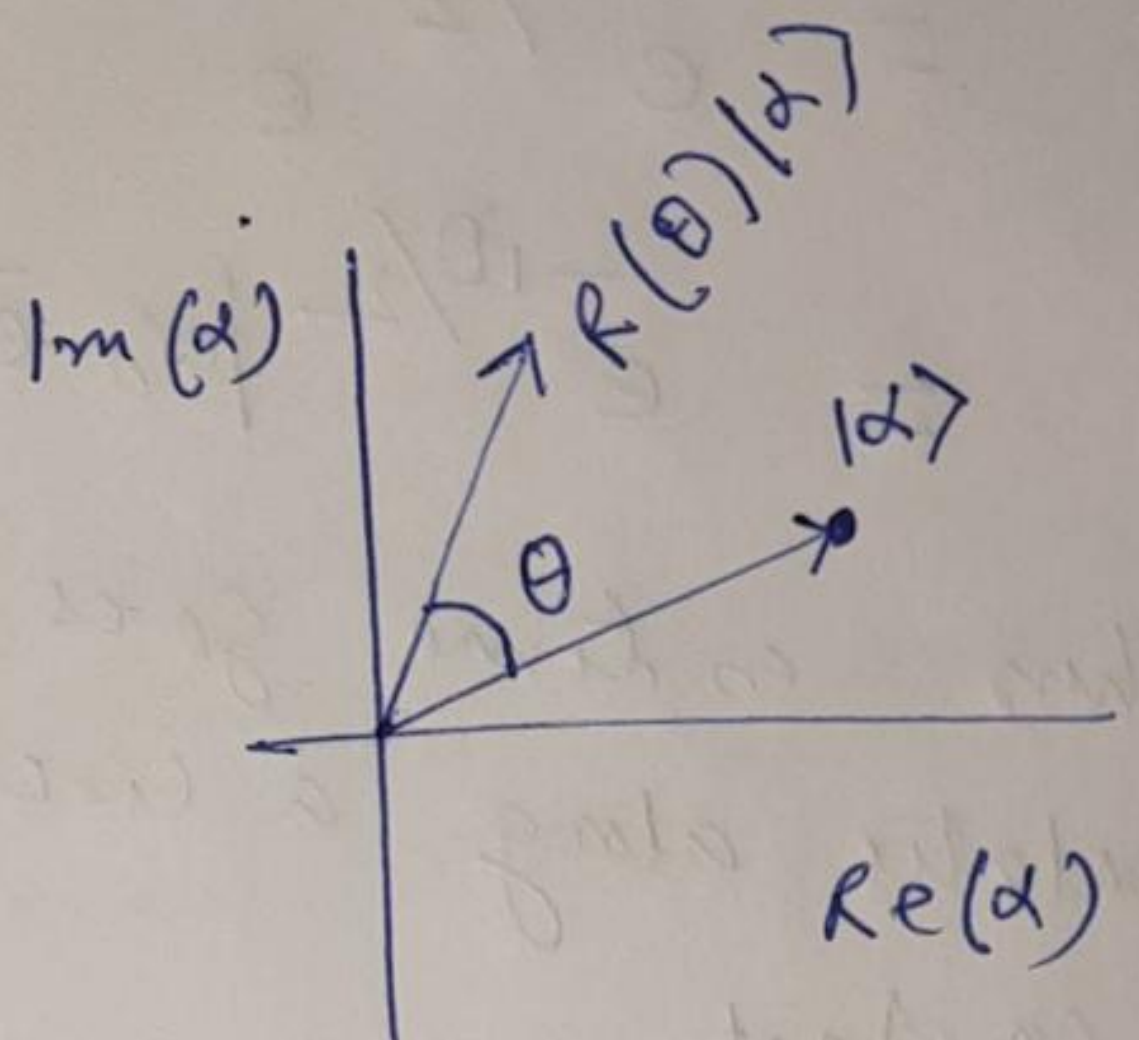
$$= e^{-\frac{|\alpha|^2}{2}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\alpha^n}{\sqrt{n!}} e^{-i\theta n} |n\rangle$$

$$= e^{-\frac{|\alpha e^{-i\theta}|^2}{2}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(\alpha e^{-i\theta})^n}{\sqrt{n!}} |n\rangle$$

$$= |\alpha e^{-i\theta}\rangle$$

$$\text{Hence } R(\theta) |\alpha\rangle = e^{-i\theta\hat{N}} |\alpha\rangle = |\alpha e^{-i\theta}\rangle$$

Thus the rotation operator $R(\theta)$ rotates the coherent state by an angle θ .



Time evolution of coherent state $|\alpha\rangle$

Hamiltonian $H = \hbar\omega \left(a^\dagger a + \frac{1}{2} \right)$

Time evolution operator $U = e^{-iHt/\hbar}$

$$U = e^{-\frac{i\hbar\omega}{\hbar} \left(a^\dagger a + \frac{1}{2} \right)} = e^{-\frac{i\omega t}{2}} e^{-i\omega t a^\dagger a}$$

$$|\alpha_t\rangle = \hat{U} |\alpha_0\rangle$$

$$= e^{-i\theta/2} e^{-i\theta a^\dagger a} |\alpha_0\rangle \quad ; \quad \theta = \omega t$$

$$= e^{-i\theta/2} |\alpha_0 e^{-i\theta}\rangle \quad ;$$

Thus as time goes on the coherent state just rotates along a circle keeping its amplitude constant.

Two coherent states $|\alpha\rangle$ and $|\beta\rangle$ are not orthogonal to each other.

$$\langle \alpha | \beta \rangle = e^{-|\alpha - \beta|^2}$$

These two coherent states will be approximately orthogonal when $|\alpha - \beta| \rightarrow \infty$ i.e. when they are far apart from each other.

Coherent states form a complete set.

$$\int |\alpha\rangle \langle \alpha| d^2\alpha = \pi \sum |n\rangle \langle n| = \pi \mathbb{1}$$

This is the over-completeness relation for the coherent states.

The two quadrature operators do not commute with each other, which can be shown easily.

$$\begin{aligned} [X, Y] &= \frac{1}{4i} [a+a^\dagger, a-a^\dagger] \\ &= \frac{1}{4i} [a, -a^\dagger] + [a^\dagger, a] \\ &= \frac{1}{4i} (-1-1) = -\frac{2}{4i} = \frac{i}{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$[X, Y] = \frac{i}{2}$$

Now we calculate the expectation value of \hat{X} and \hat{Y} quadrature operator in the coherent state $|\alpha\rangle$.

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \hat{X} \rangle_\alpha &= \langle \alpha | \hat{X} | \alpha \rangle \\ &= \langle \alpha | \frac{a+a^\dagger}{2} | \alpha \rangle = \frac{1}{2} (\alpha + \alpha^*) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{and } \langle \hat{Y} \rangle_\alpha &= \langle \alpha | \hat{Y} | \alpha \rangle \\ &= \langle \alpha | \frac{a-a^\dagger}{2i} | \alpha \rangle \end{aligned}$$

$$a|\alpha\rangle = \alpha|\alpha\rangle$$

$$a\langle\alpha| = \alpha^*\langle\alpha|$$

$$= \frac{1}{2i} (\alpha - \alpha^*)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Now } X+iY &= \frac{1}{2} (\alpha + \alpha^*) + \frac{1}{2i} (\alpha - \alpha^*) \\ &= \alpha \end{aligned} \quad ; \quad \begin{aligned} X &= \langle \hat{X} \rangle_\alpha \\ Y &= \langle \hat{Y} \rangle_\alpha \end{aligned}$$

Comparing with equation -

$$\boxed{X = \text{Re}(\alpha)} \quad \text{and} \quad \boxed{Y = \text{Im}(\alpha)}$$

Now the position operator is given by -

$$\hat{x} = x_0 (a + a^\dagger) ; x_0 = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2m\omega}} \text{ is the zero point oscillation -}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\hat{x}}{2} = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2m\omega}} \frac{(a + a^\dagger)}{2}$$

$$\text{or } \frac{\hat{x}}{2} = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2m\omega}} \hat{X}$$

$$\text{or } \boxed{\hat{x} = \sqrt{\frac{2\hbar}{m\omega}} \hat{X}}$$

Thus multiplying the \hat{X} quantum operator or dimensionless position operator with appropriate constant ($\sqrt{\frac{2\hbar}{m\omega}}$) we can get the position operator \hat{x} .

Taking the average value both sides -

$$\langle \hat{x} \rangle_\alpha = \sqrt{\frac{2\hbar}{m\omega}} \langle \hat{X} \rangle_\alpha$$

$$\langle \hat{x} \rangle_\alpha = \sqrt{\frac{2\hbar}{m\omega}} \text{Re}(\alpha)$$

$$\text{or } \boxed{\text{Re}(\alpha) = \sqrt{\frac{m\omega}{2\hbar}} \langle \hat{x} \rangle_\alpha}$$

The expectation value of the photon number operator in coherent state $|\alpha\rangle$

$$\begin{aligned}\langle n \rangle &= \langle \alpha | \hat{n} | \alpha \rangle = \langle \alpha | a^\dagger a | \alpha \rangle \\ &= |\alpha|^2\end{aligned}$$

Thus the average number of photon in the coherent state $|\alpha\rangle$ is $|\alpha|^2$

fluctuation in the photon no. in the coherent state $|\alpha\rangle$.

$$\begin{aligned}(\Delta n)^2 &= \langle \hat{n}^2 \rangle - \langle \hat{n} \rangle^2 \\ &= \langle \alpha | a^\dagger a a^\dagger a | \alpha \rangle - \left\{ \langle \alpha | a^\dagger a | \alpha \rangle \right\}^2 \\ &= \alpha^* \langle \alpha | a a^\dagger | \alpha \rangle \alpha - |\alpha|^4 \\ &= |\alpha|^2 \langle \alpha | 1 + a a^\dagger | \alpha \rangle - |\alpha|^4 \\ &= |\alpha|^2 [1 + |\alpha|^2] - |\alpha|^4 \\ &= |\alpha|^2 + |\alpha|^4 - |\alpha|^4 = |\alpha|^2\end{aligned}$$

$$\Delta n = |\alpha| = \sqrt{\langle n \rangle}.$$

Thus the fluctuation in photon no. in the coherent state $|\alpha\rangle$ is proportional to the average no. of photons in that state.

The probability of finding n photons in the coherent state $|\alpha\rangle$

The probability is given by -

$$P_n = |\langle n|\alpha\rangle|^2$$

$$\text{Now, } \langle n|\alpha\rangle = e^{-|\alpha|^2/2} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{\alpha^m}{\sqrt{m!}} \langle n|m\rangle$$

$$= e^{-|\alpha|^2/2} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{\alpha^m}{\sqrt{m!}} \delta_{nm}$$

$$= e^{-|\alpha|^2/2} \frac{\alpha^n}{\sqrt{n!}} \delta_{nn} = e^{-|\alpha|^2/2} \frac{\alpha^n}{\sqrt{n!}}$$

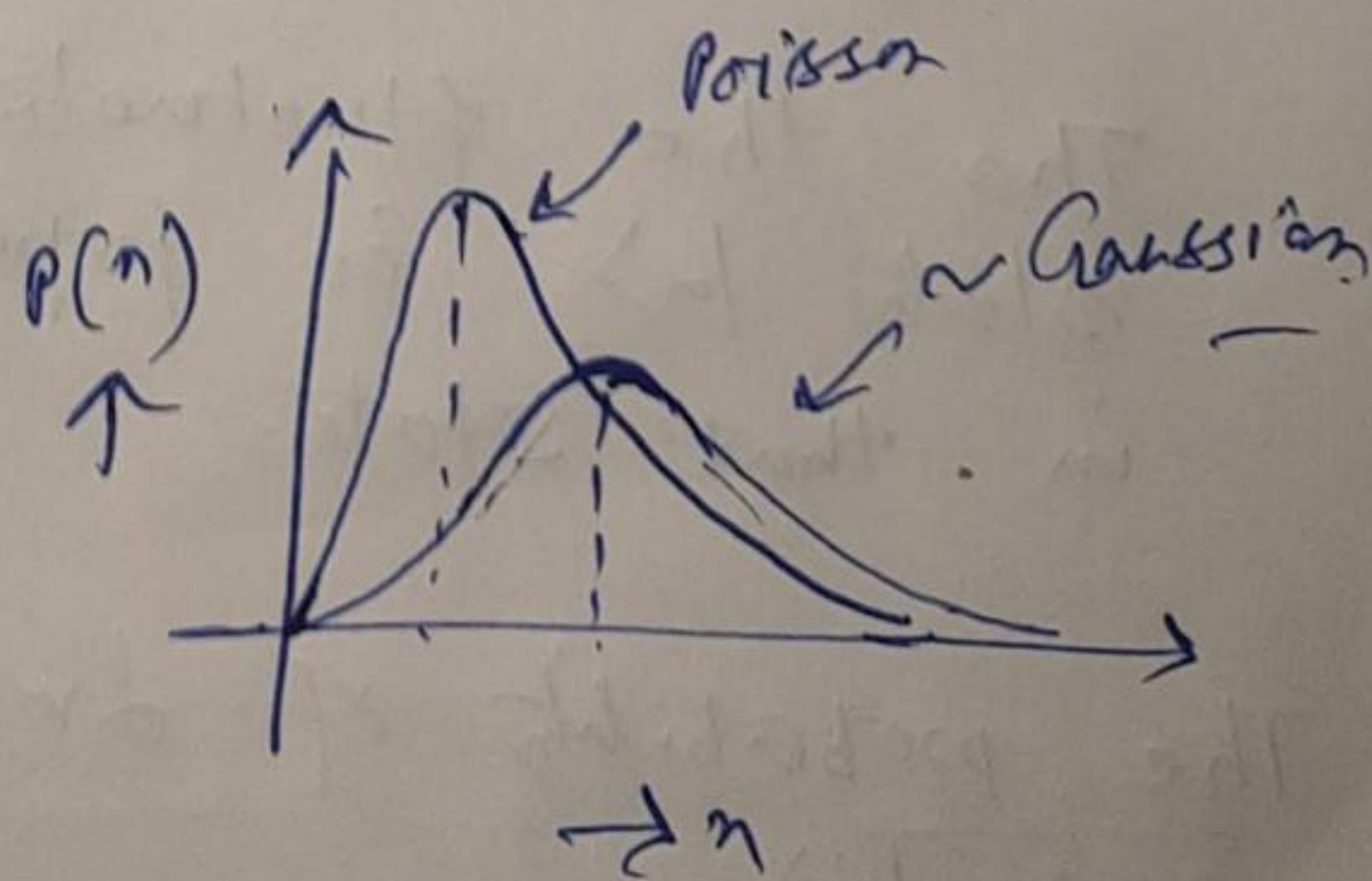
$$P_n = |\langle n|\alpha\rangle|^2 = e^{-|\alpha|^2} \frac{|\alpha|^{2n}}{n!}$$

$$= \frac{e^{-\langle n\rangle} \langle n\rangle^n}{n!}$$

This is the poisson distribution with mean $\langle n\rangle$.

also $\frac{\Delta n}{\langle n\rangle} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\langle n\rangle}}$

For large n poisson distribution may be approximated as Gaussian.



Position representation of Fock states

The position representation of Number state is given by -

$$\Phi_n(x) = \langle x | n \rangle$$

For $n = 0$

$$\Phi_0(x) = \langle x | 0 \rangle$$

This is the ground state wave function.

To find $\Phi_0(x)$ we use

$$a = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\hbar m\omega}} (m\omega x + ip)$$

$$p = -i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial x}$$

$$a|0\rangle = 0$$

$$\text{or } \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\hbar m\omega}} \left(m\omega x - i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right) \Phi_0(x) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \left(m\omega x + \hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right) \Phi_0(x) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow m\omega x \Phi_0(x) + \hbar \frac{\partial \Phi_0}{\partial x} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow m\omega x \Phi_0(x) = -\hbar \frac{\partial \Phi_0}{\partial x}$$

$$\Rightarrow \int m\omega x dx = -\hbar \int \frac{d\Phi_0}{\Phi_0} + \ln c$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{m\omega x^2}{2} = -\hbar \ln \Phi_0 + \ln c$$

$$\Rightarrow \ln \Phi_0 = -\frac{m\omega x^2}{2\hbar} + \ln c'$$

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \ln c = \text{Integration} \\ \text{Constant} \end{array} \right.$

$$\ln \phi_0 = -\frac{m\omega x^2}{2\hbar} + \ln c'$$

$$\Rightarrow \phi_0 = K e^{-\frac{m\omega x^2}{2\hbar}} ; K = \ln c'$$

To find K we use the normalization condition

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \phi_0^*(x) \phi_0(x) dx = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow |K|^2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\frac{m\omega x^2}{\hbar}} dx = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow K = \left(\frac{m\omega}{\pi\hbar}\right)^{1/4}$$

Thus the ground state wavefunction $\phi_0(x)$ becomes -

$$\phi_0(x) = \left(\frac{m\omega}{\pi\hbar}\right)^{1/4} e^{-\frac{m\omega x^2}{2\hbar}}$$

To get ground state wavefunction for the coherent state we just ~~replace~~ displace the position x in positive x direction by some amount say x_0 .

$$\phi_\alpha(x) = \left(\frac{m\omega}{\pi\hbar}\right)^{1/4} e^{-\frac{m\omega}{2\hbar}(x-x_0)^2}$$

Both the wavefunction is Gaussian type