

Consider the 1-D harmonic oscillator, with Hamiltonian $H = p^2/2m + \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2 x^2 = \hbar\omega(a^\dagger a + 1/2)$, and with energy eigenstates $H |n\rangle = E_n |n\rangle = \hbar\omega(n + 1/2) |n\rangle$. The eigenvectors of the annihilation operator a are known as *coherent states*: $a |z\rangle = z |z\rangle$, where z is in general a complex number (a is not Hermitian, so z is not necessarily real). Take $|z\rangle$ to be normalized: $\langle z|z\rangle = 1$.

- Find an expression for $|z\rangle$ as a linear combination of the energy eigenstates $|n\rangle$. Make sure it is normalized. Calculate $\langle z_1|z_2\rangle$.
- If the oscillator is in the state $|z\rangle$ at the instant that the oscillator energy is measured, what is the probability of obtaining the result E_n ? What is the expectation value for the measured energy, $\langle z|H|z\rangle$?
- Show that for this state, $\Delta x \Delta p = \hbar/2$, so that the state is a minimum uncertainty wave packet.