

Erratum: Complex Extension of Quantum Mechanics
[Phys. Rev. Lett. 89, 270401 (2002)]

Carl M. Bender, Dorje C. Brody, and Hugh F. Jones
(Received 6 January 2004; published 18 March 2004)

DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevLett.92.119902

PACS numbers: 11.30.Er, 03.65.-w, 03.65.Ge, 02.60.Lj, 99.10.Cd

This Erratum corrects an error concerning the condition for a linear operator to be an *observable* in \mathcal{PT} -symmetric quantum mechanics. The incorrect statement of this condition on line 2, p. 270401-4, reads that an observable is “one that commutes with $C\mathcal{PT}$.” The correct statement is that “an observable \mathcal{A} satisfies $\tilde{\mathcal{A}} = C\mathcal{PT} \mathcal{A} C\mathcal{PT}$, where $\tilde{}$ signifies transpose.” (The transpose operation was inadvertently omitted.) This condition guarantees that the expectation value of \mathcal{A} is real and the condition is preserved under time evolution if $H = \tilde{H}$. In conventional quantum mechanics, where $C = \mathcal{P}$, this condition reduces to the usual Hermiticity condition $\tilde{\mathcal{A}} = \mathcal{A}^*$. The symmetry requirement $H = \tilde{H}$ holds for all continuum \mathcal{PT} -symmetric models that we have discussed, but it requires that $t = s$ in Eqs. (15) and (16). These corrections do not alter the conclusions of the Letter in any way.

We thank A. Mostafazadeh, among others, for pointing out the error in our definition of an observable.