Homework Problem 3.6

Discussion Friday, October 17

3.6 A good example of a non-normal operator is the qubit raising operator

$$\sigma_+ = \frac{1}{2}(\sigma_x + i\sigma_y) \leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$
.

- (a) Find the eigenvectors and eigenvalues of σ_+ .
- (b) Find the polar decomposition of σ_+ . What is the relationship between the polar decomposition and the eigenvectors and eigenvalues?