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Problem 1. [C-T Exercise 3-4] Consider a free particle in one dimension.

- (a) Show, applying Ehrenfest's theorem, that $\langle \hat{x} \rangle$ is a linear function of time, the mean value $\langle \hat{p}_x \rangle$ remaining constant.
- (b) Write the equations of motion for the mean values $\langle \hat{x}^2 \rangle$ and $\langle \hat{x}\hat{p}_x + \hat{p}_x\hat{x} \rangle$. Integrate these equations.
- (c) Show that, with a suitable choice of the time origin, the root-mean square deviation Δx is given by

$$(\Delta x)^2 = \frac{1}{m^2}(\Delta p_x)_0^2 t^2 + (\Delta x)_0^2,$$

where $(\Delta x)_0$ and $(\Delta p_x)_0$ are the root-mean-square deviations at the initial time.

How does the width of the wave packet vary as a function of time? Give a physical interpretation.

Solution:

- (a) According to Ehrenfest's theorem

$$\frac{d\langle \hat{x} \rangle}{dt} = \frac{1}{m} \langle \hat{p}_x \rangle \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{d\langle \hat{p}_x \rangle}{dt} = -\langle \vec{\nabla} \hat{V}(\hat{x}) \rangle \quad (2)$$

For a free particle, $V(\hat{x})$ is a constant, so

$$\frac{d\langle \hat{p}_x \rangle}{dt} = -\langle \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \hat{V}(\hat{x}) \rangle = 0 \quad (3)$$

the mean value $\langle \hat{p}_x \rangle$ remains constant. In this way,

$$\frac{d\langle \hat{x} \rangle}{dt} = \frac{1}{m} \langle \hat{p}_x \rangle \quad (4)$$

is also a constant, so

$$\langle \hat{x} \rangle = \frac{\langle \hat{p}_x \rangle}{m} t + x_0 \quad (5)$$

$\langle \hat{x} \rangle$ is a linear function of time, where x_0 is a integration constant.

- (b) The equations of motion for mean value $\langle \hat{x}^2 \rangle$ is

$$\frac{d\langle \hat{x}^2 \rangle}{dt} = \frac{1}{i\hbar} \langle [\hat{x}^2, \hat{H}] \rangle \quad (6)$$

Since

$$\begin{aligned} [\hat{x}^2, \hat{H}] &= [\hat{x}^2, \frac{\hat{p}_x^2}{2m} + \hat{V}(\hat{x})] = [\hat{x}^2, \frac{\hat{p}_x^2}{2m}] + [\hat{x}^2, \hat{V}(\hat{x})] \\ &= \frac{1}{2m} (\hat{x}[\hat{x}, \hat{p}_x^2] + [\hat{x}, \hat{p}_x^2]\hat{x}) + (\hat{x}\hat{V}(\hat{x}) - \hat{V}(\hat{x})\hat{x}) \\ &= \frac{1}{2m} (\hat{x}(\hat{p}_x[\hat{x}, \hat{p}_x] + [\hat{x}, \hat{p}_x]\hat{p}_x) + (\hat{p}_x[\hat{x}, \hat{p}_x] + [\hat{x}, \hat{p}_x]\hat{p}_x)\hat{x}) + (xV(x) - V(x)x) \\ &= \frac{i\hbar}{m} (\hat{x}\hat{p}_x + \hat{p}_x\hat{x}) \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

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we have

$$\frac{d\langle \hat{x}^2 \rangle}{dt} = \frac{1}{m} \langle \hat{x} \hat{p}_x + \hat{p}_x \hat{x} \rangle \quad (8)$$

The equation of motion for mean value $\langle \hat{x} \hat{p}_x + \hat{p}_x \hat{x} \rangle$ is

$$\frac{d\langle \hat{x} \hat{p}_x + \hat{p}_x \hat{x} \rangle}{dt} = \frac{1}{i\hbar} \langle [\hat{x} \hat{p}_x + \hat{p}_x \hat{x}, \hat{H}] \rangle \quad (9)$$

Since

$$\begin{aligned} [\hat{x} \hat{p}_x + \hat{p}_x \hat{x}, \hat{H}] &= [\hat{x} \hat{p}_x + \hat{p}_x \hat{x}, \frac{\hat{p}_x^2}{2m} + \hat{V}(\hat{x})] \\ &= [\hat{x} \hat{p}_x, \frac{\hat{p}_x^2}{2m}] + [\hat{p}_x \hat{x}, \frac{\hat{p}_x^2}{2m}] + [\hat{x} \hat{p}_x, \hat{V}(\hat{x})] + [\hat{p}_x \hat{x}, \hat{V}(\hat{x})] \\ &= \frac{1}{2m} [\hat{x} \hat{p}_x, \hat{p}_x^2] + \frac{1}{2m} [\hat{p}_x \hat{x}, \hat{p}_x^2] \\ &\quad + (\hat{x} \hat{p}_x \hat{V}(\hat{x}) - \hat{V}(\hat{x}) \hat{x} \hat{p}_x) + (\hat{p}_x \hat{x} \hat{V}(\hat{x}) - \hat{V}(\hat{x}) \hat{p}_x \hat{x}) \\ &= \frac{1}{2m} (\hat{x} [\hat{p}_x, \hat{p}_x^2] + [\hat{x}, \hat{p}_x^2] \hat{p}_x + \hat{p}_x [\hat{x}, \hat{p}_x^2] + [\hat{p}_x, \hat{p}_x^2] \hat{x}) \\ &= \frac{1}{2m} (\hat{x} (\hat{p}_x [\hat{p}_x, \hat{p}_x] + [\hat{p}_x, \hat{p}_x] \hat{p}_x) + (\hat{p}_x [\hat{x}, \hat{p}_x] + [\hat{x}, \hat{p}_x] \hat{p}_x) \hat{p}_x \\ &\quad + \hat{p}_x (\hat{p}_x [\hat{x}, \hat{p}_x] + [\hat{x}, \hat{p}_x] \hat{p}_x) + (\hat{p}_x [\hat{p}_x, \hat{p}_x] + [\hat{p}_x, \hat{p}_x] \hat{p}_x) \hat{x}) \\ &= \frac{2i\hbar}{m} \hat{p}_x^2 \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

we have

$$\frac{d\langle \hat{x} \hat{p}_x + \hat{p}_x \hat{x} \rangle}{dt} = \frac{2}{m} \langle \hat{p}_x^2 \rangle \quad (11)$$

The equation of motion of the mean value $\langle \hat{p}_x^2 \rangle$ is

$$\frac{d\langle \hat{p}_x^2 \rangle}{dt} = \frac{1}{i\hbar} \langle [\hat{p}_x^2, \hat{H}] \rangle \quad (12)$$

Since

$$\begin{aligned} [\hat{p}_x^2, \hat{H}] &= [\hat{p}_x^2, \frac{\hat{p}_x^2}{2m} + \hat{V}(\hat{x})] \\ &= \frac{1}{2m} [\hat{p}_x^2, \hat{p}_x^2] + [\hat{p}_x^2, \hat{V}(\hat{x})] \\ &= 0 \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

we have

$$\frac{d\langle \hat{p}_x^2 \rangle}{dt} = 0 \quad (14)$$

so $\langle \hat{p}_x^2 \rangle$ is a constant.

Using this fact, integrate the equation of motion for the mean value $\langle \hat{x} \hat{p}_x + \hat{p}_x \hat{x} \rangle$ to get

$$\langle \hat{x} \hat{p}_x + \hat{p}_x \hat{x} \rangle = \frac{2\langle \hat{p}_x^2 \rangle}{m} t + \langle \hat{x} \hat{p}_x + \hat{p}_x \hat{x} \rangle|_{t=0} \quad (15)$$

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where $\langle \hat{x}\hat{p}_x + \hat{p}_x\hat{x} \rangle|_{t=0}$ is a integration constant.

Using the conclusion above, we have

$$\frac{d\langle \hat{x}^2 \rangle}{dt} = \frac{2\langle \hat{p}_x^2 \rangle}{m^2}t + \frac{\langle \hat{x}\hat{p}_x + \hat{p}_x\hat{x} \rangle|_{t=0}}{m} \quad (16)$$

Integrate the equation of motion for the mean value $\langle \hat{x}^2 \rangle$ to get

$$\langle \hat{x}^2 \rangle = \frac{\langle \hat{p}_x^2 \rangle}{m^2}t^2 + \frac{\langle \hat{x}\hat{p}_x + \hat{p}_x\hat{x} \rangle|_{t=0}}{m}t + \langle \hat{x}^2 \rangle|_{t=0} \quad (17)$$

where $\langle \hat{x}^2 \rangle|_{t=0}$ is another integration constant.

(c) The root-mean square deviation Δx can be written as

$$(\Delta x)^2 = \langle \hat{x}^2 \rangle - \langle \hat{x} \rangle^2 \quad (18)$$

where, using the conclusion obtained for last question

$$\langle \hat{x}^2 \rangle = \frac{\langle \hat{p}_x^2 \rangle}{m^2}t^2 + \frac{\langle \hat{x}\hat{p}_x + \hat{p}_x\hat{x} \rangle|_{t=0}}{m}t + \langle \hat{x}^2 \rangle|_{t=0} \quad (19)$$

and using the conclusion for (a)

$$\langle \hat{x} \rangle = \frac{\langle \hat{p}_x \rangle}{m}t + x_0 \quad (20)$$

Suitably choosing the time origin to make $\langle \hat{x}\hat{p}_x + \hat{p}_x\hat{x} \rangle|_{t=0} = 2\langle \hat{p}_x \rangle x_0$, then

$$(\Delta x)^2 = \frac{\langle \hat{p}_x^2 \rangle - \langle \hat{p}_x \rangle^2}{m^2}t^2 + \langle \hat{x}^2 \rangle|_{t=0} - x_0^2 = \frac{1}{m^2}(\Delta p_x)_0^2 t^2 + (\Delta x)_0^2, \quad (21)$$

where constant $(\Delta x)_0^2 = \langle \hat{x}^2 \rangle|_{t=0} - x_0^2$.

According to the equation derived above, the width of the wave packet is a monotonically increasing function of time.

Physical interpretation: the group velocity of the particle is different from its phase particle, making the probability density for finding the particle diffuse in the space as it spreads.

□

Problem 2. [C-T Exercise 3-5] In a one-dimensional problem, consider a particle of potential energy $\hat{V}(\hat{x}) = -f\hat{x}$, where f is a positive constant [$\hat{V}(\hat{x})$ arises, for example, from a gravity field or a uniform electric field].

(a) Write Ehrenfest's theorem for the mean values of the position \hat{x} and the momentum \hat{p}_x of the particle. Integrate these equations; compare with the classical motion.

(b) Show that the root-mean-square deviation Δp_x does not vary over time.

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- (c) Write the Schrödinger equation in the $\{|p_x\rangle\}$ representation. Deduce from it a relation between $\frac{\partial}{\partial t}|\langle p_x|\psi(t)\rangle|^2$ and $\frac{\partial}{\partial p_x}|\langle p_x|\psi(t)\rangle|^2$. Integrate the equation thus obtained; give a physical interpretation.

Solution:

- (a) According to Ehrenfest's theorem, the mean value for the position satisfies

$$\frac{d\langle\hat{x}\rangle}{dt} = \frac{1}{m}\langle\hat{p}_x\rangle \quad (22)$$

The mean value for the momentum satisfies

$$\frac{d\langle\hat{p}_x\rangle}{dt} = -\left\langle\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\hat{V}(\hat{x})\right\rangle = f \quad (23)$$

Integrate the equation above to get

$$\langle\hat{p}_x\rangle = ft + \langle\hat{p}_x\rangle|_{t=0} \quad (24)$$

where $\langle\hat{p}_x\rangle|_{t=0}$ is an integration constant. Plug the equation above into the first equation in this solution to get

$$\frac{d\langle\hat{x}\rangle}{dt} = \frac{ft + \langle\hat{p}_x\rangle|_{t=0}}{m} \quad (25)$$

Integrate the equation above to get

$$\langle\hat{x}\rangle = \frac{f}{2m}t^2 + \frac{\langle\hat{p}_x\rangle|_{t=0}}{m}t + \langle\hat{x}\rangle|_{t=0} \quad (26)$$

where $\langle\hat{x}\rangle|_{t=0}$ is an integration constant.

The equations obtained from integration can depict the classical motion in an uniform potential field well, such as that momentum is a linear function about the time and the position quadratic function.

- (b) According to Ehrenfest theorem, the mean value of the square of the momentum satisfies

$$\frac{d\langle\hat{p}_x^2\rangle}{dt} = \frac{1}{i\hbar}\langle[\hat{p}_x^2, \hat{H}]\rangle \quad (27)$$

Since

$$\begin{aligned} [\hat{p}_x^2, \hat{H}]\psi &= \left([\hat{p}_x^2, \frac{\hat{p}_x^2}{2m} + \hat{V}(\hat{x})]\right)\psi \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{2m}[\hat{p}_x^2, \hat{p}_x^2] + [\hat{p}_x^2, \hat{V}(\hat{x})]\right)\psi \\ &= (\hat{p}_x^2\hat{V}(\hat{x}) - \hat{V}(\hat{x})\hat{p}_x^2)\psi \\ &= \left(-\hbar^2\frac{d^2}{dx^2}(-fx) - (-fx)(-\hbar^2)\frac{d^2}{dx^2}\right)\psi \\ &= 2\hbar^2 f \frac{d}{dx}\psi \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

$$\implies [\hat{p}_x^2, \hat{H}] = 2\hbar^2 f \frac{d}{dx} = 2i\hbar f \hat{p}_x \quad (29)$$

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we have

$$\frac{d\langle \hat{p}_x^2 \rangle}{dt} = 2f\langle \hat{p}_x \rangle = 2f(ft + \langle \hat{p}_x \rangle|_{t=0}) \quad (30)$$

so the mean value of the momentum of is

$$\langle \hat{p}_x^2 \rangle = ft^2 + 2f\langle \hat{p}_x \rangle|_{t=0}t + \langle \hat{p}_x^2 \rangle|_{t=0} \quad (31)$$

where the integration constant $\langle \hat{p}_x^2 \rangle|_{t=0} = [\langle \hat{p}_x \rangle|_{t=0}]^2$.

Therefore, the root-mean-square deviation of the momentum is

$$\Delta p_x = \sqrt{\langle \hat{p}_x^2 \rangle - \langle \hat{p}_x \rangle^2} = 0 \quad (32)$$

which does not vary over time.

(c) The Schrödinger equation in the $\{|p_x\rangle\}$ representation is

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \bar{\psi}(p_x, t) = \left[\frac{p_x^2}{2m} + \hat{V}(i\hbar \frac{d}{dx}) \right] \bar{\psi}(p_x, t) \quad (33)$$

where $\bar{\psi}(p_x, t)$ is the wave function in the momentum representation.

In the potential energy $\hat{V}(\hat{x}) = -f\hat{x}$, the Schrödinger equation can be written as

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \bar{\psi}(p_x, t) = \left(\frac{p_x^2}{2m} - i\hbar f \frac{\partial}{\partial p_x} \right) \bar{\psi}(p_x, t) \quad (34)$$

Using the equation above,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} |\bar{\psi}(p_x, t)|^2 &= \bar{\psi}^*(p_x, t) \frac{\partial \bar{\psi}(p_x, t)}{\partial t} + \bar{\psi}(p_x, t) \frac{\partial \bar{\psi}^*(p_x, t)}{\partial t} \\ &= -\bar{\psi}^*(p_x, t) \left(\frac{ip_x^2}{2m\hbar} + f \frac{\partial}{\partial p_x} \right) \bar{\psi}(p_x, t) + \bar{\psi}(p_x, t) \\ &\quad + \bar{\psi}(p_x, t) \left(\frac{ip_x^2}{2m\hbar} - f \frac{\partial}{\partial p_x} \right) \bar{\psi}^*(p_x, t) \\ &= -f \left(\bar{\psi}^*(p_x, t) \frac{\partial \bar{\psi}(p_x, t)}{\partial p_x} + \bar{\psi}(p_x, t) \frac{\partial \bar{\psi}^*(p_x, t)}{\partial p_x} \right) \\ &= -f \frac{\partial}{\partial p_x} |\bar{\psi}(p_x, t)|^2 \end{aligned} \quad (35)$$

Let

$$r = p - ft \quad (36)$$

$$s = p + ft \quad (37)$$

then

$$\frac{\partial |\bar{\psi}(p_x, t)|^2}{\partial p} = \frac{\partial |\bar{\psi}(p_x, t)|^2}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial |\bar{\psi}(p_x, t)|^2}{\partial s} \quad (38)$$

$$\frac{\partial |\bar{\psi}(p_x, t)|^2}{\partial t} = -f \frac{\partial |\bar{\psi}(p_x, t)|^2}{\partial r} + f \frac{\partial |\bar{\psi}(p_x, t)|^2}{\partial s} \quad (39)$$

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so

$$\frac{\partial |\bar{\psi}(p_x, t)|^2}{\partial s} = 0 \quad (40)$$

which means that $|\bar{\psi}(p_x, t)|^2$ is a function of r along

$$|\bar{\psi}(p_x, t)|^2 = P(p - ft) \quad (41)$$

where P is an arbitrary function and

$$|\bar{\psi}(p_x, t)|^2 = |\bar{\psi}(p_x - ft, 0)|^2 \quad (42)$$

Physical interpretation: the probability density in momentum representation moves according to the classical equation of motion, $p = p_0 + ft$.

Reference: http://scipp.ucsc.edu/~haber/ph215/QMsol18_2.pdf □

Problem 3. [C-T Exercise 3-9] One wants to show that the physical state of a (spinless) particle is completely defined by specifying the probability density $\rho(\vec{r}) = |\psi(\vec{r})|^2$ and the probability current $\vec{J}(\vec{r})$.

(a) Assume the function $\psi(\vec{r})$ known and let $\xi(\vec{r})$ be its argument, $\psi(\vec{r}) = \sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})}e^{i\xi(\vec{r})}$. Show that

$$\vec{J}(\vec{r}) = \frac{\hbar}{m}\rho(\vec{r})\vec{\nabla}\xi(\vec{r}).$$

Deduce that two wave functions leading to the same density $\rho(\vec{r})$ and current $\vec{J}(\vec{r})$ can differ only by a global phase factor.

(b) Given arbitrary functions $\rho(\vec{r})$ and $\vec{J}(\vec{r})$, show that a quantum state $\psi(\vec{r})$ can be associated with them only if $\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{v}(\vec{r}) = 0$, where $\vec{v}(\vec{r}) = \vec{J}(\vec{r})/\rho(\vec{r})$ is the velocity associated with the probability fluid.

(c) Now assume that the particle is submitted to a magnetic field $\vec{B} = \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}(\vec{r})$. Show that

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{J}(\vec{r}) &= \frac{\rho(\vec{r})}{m}[\hbar\vec{\nabla}\xi(\vec{r}) - q\vec{A}(\vec{r})], \\ \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{v}(\vec{r}) &= -\frac{q}{m}\vec{B}(\vec{r}). \end{aligned}$$

Solution:

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(a) The probability current is

$$\begin{aligned}
\vec{J}(\vec{r}) &= \frac{\hbar}{2im} (\psi^* \vec{\nabla} \psi - \psi \vec{\nabla} \psi^*) \\
&= \frac{\hbar}{2im} \left(\sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})} e^{-i\xi(\vec{r})} \vec{\nabla} \sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})} e^{i\xi(\vec{r})} - \sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})} e^{i\xi(\vec{r})} \vec{\nabla} \sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})} e^{-i\xi(\vec{r})} \right) \\
&= \frac{\hbar}{2im} \left[\sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})} e^{-i\xi(\vec{r})} \left(e^{i\xi(\vec{r})} \vec{\nabla} \sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})} + \sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})} \vec{\nabla} e^{i\xi(\vec{r})} \right) \right. \\
&\quad \left. - \sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})} e^{i\xi(\vec{r})} \left(e^{-i\xi(\vec{r})} \vec{\nabla} \sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})} + \sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})} \vec{\nabla} e^{-i\xi(\vec{r})} \right) \right] \\
&= \frac{\hbar}{2im} \left[\sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})} e^{-i\xi(\vec{r})} \left(e^{i\xi(\vec{r})} \frac{\vec{\nabla} \rho(\vec{r})}{2\sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})}} + \sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})} e^{i\xi(\vec{r})} i \vec{\nabla} \xi(\vec{r}) \right) \right. \\
&\quad \left. - \sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})} e^{i\xi(\vec{r})} \left(e^{-i\xi(\vec{r})} \frac{\vec{\nabla} \rho(\vec{r})}{2\sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})}} + \sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})} e^{-i\xi(\vec{r})} (-i \vec{\nabla} \xi(\vec{r})) \right) \right] \\
&= \frac{\hbar}{m} \rho(\vec{r}) \vec{\nabla} \xi(\vec{r})
\end{aligned} \tag{43}$$

For a wave function with the same density $\rho(\vec{r}) = |\psi(\vec{r})|^2$ differing by a global phase vector

$$\varphi(\vec{r}) = \psi(\vec{r}) e^{i\psi} = \sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})} e^{i[\xi(\vec{r}) + \phi]} \tag{44}$$

its probability

$$\begin{aligned}
\vec{J}_1(\vec{r}) &= \frac{\hbar}{2im} (\varphi^* \vec{\nabla} \varphi - \varphi \vec{\nabla} \varphi^*) \\
&= \frac{\hbar}{2im} \left(\sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})} e^{-i[\xi(\vec{r}) + \phi]} \vec{\nabla} \sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})} e^{i[\xi(\vec{r}) + \phi]} - \sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})} e^{i[\xi(\vec{r}) + \phi]} \vec{\nabla} \sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})} e^{-i[\xi(\vec{r}) + \phi]} \right) \\
&= \frac{\hbar}{2im} \left[\sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})} e^{-i[\xi(\vec{r}) + \phi]} \left(e^{i[\xi(\vec{r}) + \phi]} \vec{\nabla} \sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})} + \sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})} \vec{\nabla} e^{i[\xi(\vec{r}) + \phi]} \right) \right. \\
&\quad \left. - \sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})} e^{i[\xi(\vec{r}) + \phi]} \left(e^{-i[\xi(\vec{r}) + \phi]} \vec{\nabla} \sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})} + \sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})} \vec{\nabla} e^{-i[\xi(\vec{r}) + \phi]} \right) \right] \\
&= \frac{\hbar}{2im} \left[\sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})} e^{-i\xi(\vec{r})} \left(e^{i[\xi(\vec{r}) + \phi]} \frac{\vec{\nabla} \rho(\vec{r})}{2\sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})}} + \sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})} e^{i[\xi(\vec{r}) + \phi]} i \vec{\nabla} \xi(\vec{r}) \right) \right. \\
&\quad \left. - \sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})} e^{-i[\xi(\vec{r}) + \phi]} \left(e^{-i[\xi(\vec{r}) + \phi]} \frac{\vec{\nabla} \rho(\vec{r})}{2\sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})}} + \sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})} e^{-i[\xi(\vec{r}) + \phi]} (-i \vec{\nabla} \xi(\vec{r})) \right) \right] \\
&= \frac{\hbar}{m} \rho(\vec{r}) \vec{\nabla} \xi(\vec{r})
\end{aligned} \tag{45}$$

is the same as $\psi(\vec{r})$'s.

Therefore, two wave functions leading to the same density and current can differ only by a global phase factor

(b) For an arbitrary wave function $\psi(\vec{r})$,

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{v}(\vec{r}) = \nabla \times \frac{\hbar}{m} \vec{\nabla} \xi(\vec{r}) = 0$$

Therefore, a quantum state $\psi(\vec{r})$ can be associated with $\rho(\vec{r})$ and $\vec{J}(\vec{r})$ only if $\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{v}(\vec{r}) = 0$.

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(c) In the magnetic field $\vec{B} = \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}(\vec{r})$, the probability current is

$$\begin{aligned}
 \vec{J}(\vec{r}, t) &= \frac{\hbar}{2m} \left\{ \psi^*(\vec{r}, t) [-i\hbar \vec{\nabla} - q\vec{A}(\vec{r})] \psi(\vec{r}, t) - \psi(\vec{r}, t) [-i\hbar \vec{\nabla} - q\vec{A}(\vec{r})] \psi^*(\vec{r}, t) \right\} \\
 &= \frac{\hbar}{2m} \left\{ \sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})} e^{-i\xi(\vec{r})} [-i\hbar \vec{\nabla} - q\vec{A}(\vec{r})] \sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})} e^{i\xi(\vec{r})} \right. \\
 &\quad \left. - \sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})} e^{i\xi(\vec{r})} [-i\hbar \vec{\nabla} - q\vec{A}(\vec{r})] \sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})} e^{-i\xi(\vec{r})} \right\} \\
 &= \frac{\hbar}{2m} \left\{ \sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})} e^{-i\xi(\vec{r})} \left[-i\hbar e^{i\xi(\vec{r})} \frac{\vec{\nabla} \rho(\vec{r})}{2\sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})}} - i\hbar \sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})} e^{i\xi(\vec{r})} i\vec{\nabla} \xi(\vec{r}) - q\vec{A} \sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})} e^{i\xi(\vec{r})} \right] \right. \\
 &\quad \left. - \sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})} e^{i\xi(\vec{r})} \left[-i\hbar e^{-i\xi(\vec{r})} \frac{\vec{\nabla} \rho(\vec{r})}{2\sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})}} - i\hbar \sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})} e^{-i\xi(\vec{r})} (-i\vec{\nabla} \xi(\vec{r})) - q\vec{A} \sqrt{\rho(\vec{r})} e^{-i\xi(\vec{r})} \right] \right\} \\
 &= \frac{\rho(\vec{r})}{m} [\hbar \vec{\nabla} \xi(\vec{r}) - q\vec{A}(\vec{r})]
 \end{aligned} \tag{46}$$

The curl of the velocity is

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{v}(\vec{r}) = \vec{\nabla} \times \frac{\vec{J}(\vec{r})}{\rho(\vec{r})} = \frac{1}{m} \vec{\nabla} \times [\hbar \vec{\nabla} \xi(\vec{r}) - q\vec{A}(\vec{r})] = -\frac{q}{m} \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}(\vec{r}) = -\frac{q}{m} \vec{B}(\vec{r}) \tag{47}$$

□

Problem 4. [C-T Exercise 3-16] Consider a physical system formed by two particles (1) and (2), of the same mass m , which do not interact with each other and which are both placed in an infinite potential well of width a . Denote by $\hat{H}(1)$ and $\hat{H}(2)$ the Hamiltonians of each of the two particles and by $|\varphi_n(1)\rangle$ and $|\varphi_q(2)\rangle$ the corresponding eigenstates of the first and second particle, of energies $n^2\pi^2\hbar^2/2ma^2$ and $q^2\pi^2\hbar^2/2ma^2$. In the state space of the global system, the basis chosen is composed of the states $|\varphi_n\varphi_q\rangle$ defined by $|\varphi_n(1)\rangle \otimes |\varphi_q(2)\rangle$.

(a) What are the eigenstates and the eigenvalues of the operator $\hat{H} = \hat{H}(1) + \hat{H}(2)$, the total Hamiltonian of the system? Give the degree of degeneracy of the two lowest energy levels.

(b) Assume that the system, at time $t = 0$, is in the state

$$|\psi(0)\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} |\varphi_1\varphi_1\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} |\varphi_1\varphi_2\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} |\varphi_2\varphi_1\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} |\varphi_2\varphi_2\rangle$$

i. What is the state of the system at time t ?

ii. The total energy \hat{H} is measured. What results can be found, and with what probabilities?

iii. Same questions if, instead of measuring \hat{H} , one measures $\hat{H}(1)$.

(c) i. Show that $|\psi(0)\rangle$ is a tensor product state. When the system is in this state, calculate the following mean values: $\langle \hat{H}(1) \rangle$, $\langle \hat{H}(2) \rangle$ and $\langle \hat{H}(1)\hat{H}(2) \rangle$. Compare $\langle \hat{H}(1) \rangle \langle \hat{H}(2) \rangle$ with $\langle \hat{H}(1)\hat{H}(2) \rangle$; how can this result be explained?

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- ii. Show that the preceding results remain valid when the state of the system is the state $|\psi(t)\rangle$ calculated in (b).

(d) Now assume that the state $|\psi(0)\rangle$ is given by

$$|\psi(0)\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}|\varphi_1\varphi_1\rangle + \sqrt{\frac{3}{5}}|\varphi_1\varphi_2\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}|\varphi_2\varphi_1\rangle$$

- i. Show that $|\psi(0)\rangle$ cannot be put in the form of a tensor product. When the system is in this state, calculate the following mean values: $\langle\hat{H}(1)\rangle$, $\langle\hat{H}(2)\rangle$ and $\langle\hat{H}(1)\hat{H}(2)\rangle$. Compare $\langle\hat{H}(1)\rangle\langle\hat{H}(2)\rangle$ with $\langle\hat{H}(1)\hat{H}(2)\rangle$; how can this result be explained?
- ii. Show that the preceding results remain valid when the state of the system is the state $|\psi(t)\rangle$ derived from the above-given $|\psi(0)\rangle$.
- (e) Write the matrix, in the basis of the vectors $|\varphi_n\varphi_q\rangle$, which represents the density matrix $\rho(0)$ corresponding to the ket $|\psi(0)\rangle$ given in (b). What is the density matrix $\rho(t)$ at time t ? Calculate, at the instant $t = 0$, the partial traces $\rho(1) = \text{Tr}_2\rho$ and $\rho(2) = \text{Tr}_1\rho$. Do the density operators ρ , $\rho(1)$ and $\rho(2)$ describe pure states? Compare ρ with $\rho(1) \otimes \rho(2)$; what is your interpretation?

Solution:

(a) The eigenstates of the operator $\hat{H} = \hat{H}(1) + \hat{H}(2)$ are

$$|\varphi_n\varphi_q\rangle = |\varphi_n(1)\rangle \otimes |\varphi_q(2)\rangle \quad (48)$$

The eigenequation are

$$\hat{H}|\varphi_n\varphi_q\rangle = [\hat{H}(1)1(2) + 1(1)\hat{H}(2)]|\varphi_n(1)\rangle \otimes |\varphi_q(2)\rangle = \left[\frac{n^2\pi^2\hbar^2}{2ma^2} + \frac{q^2\pi^2\hbar^2}{2ma^2} \right] |\varphi_n(1)\rangle \otimes |\varphi_q(2)\rangle \quad (49)$$

so the eigenvalues are

$$\frac{n^2\pi^2\hbar^2}{2ma^2} + \frac{q^2\pi^2\hbar^2}{2ma^2}, \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots, q = 1, 2, 3, \dots \quad (50)$$

The eigenvalue of the lowest energy level

$$\frac{1^2\pi^2\hbar^2}{2ma^2} + \frac{1^2\pi^2\hbar^2}{2ma^2} = \frac{\pi^2\hbar^2}{ma^2} \quad (51)$$

requires

$$n = 1, q = 1 \quad (52)$$

so the degree of degeneracy of the lowest energy level is 1.

The eigenvalue of the second lowest energy level

$$\frac{1^2\pi^2\hbar^2}{2ma^2} + \frac{2^2\pi^2\hbar^2}{2ma^2} = \frac{5\pi^2\hbar^2}{ma^2} \quad (53)$$

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requires

$$n = 1, q = 2 \text{ or } n = 2, q = 1 \quad (54)$$

so the degree of degeneracy of the second lowest energy level is 2.

- (b) i. The state of the system at time
- $t = 0$
- is

$$|\psi(0)\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}|\varphi_1(1)\rangle \otimes |\varphi_1(2)\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}|\varphi_1(1)\rangle \otimes |\varphi_2(2)\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}|\varphi_2(1)\rangle \otimes |\varphi_1(2)\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}|\varphi_2(1)\rangle \otimes |\varphi_2(2)\rangle \quad (55)$$

The state of the system at time t is

$$\begin{aligned} |\psi(t)\rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}e^{-i\frac{\pi^2\hbar^2}{2ma^2}t/\hbar}|\varphi_1(1)\rangle \otimes e^{-i\frac{\pi^2\hbar^2}{2ma^2}t/\hbar}|\varphi_1(2)\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}e^{-i\frac{\pi^2\hbar^2}{2ma^2}t/\hbar}|\varphi_1(1)\rangle \otimes e^{-i\frac{2\pi^2\hbar^2}{ma^2}t/\hbar}|\varphi_2(2)\rangle \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}e^{-i\frac{2\pi^2\hbar^2}{ma^2}t/\hbar}|\varphi_2(1)\rangle \otimes e^{-i\frac{\pi^2\hbar^2}{2ma^2}t/\hbar}|\varphi_1(2)\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}e^{-i\frac{2\pi^2\hbar^2}{ma^2}t/\hbar}|\varphi_2(1)\rangle \otimes e^{-i\frac{2\pi^2\hbar^2}{ma^2}t/\hbar}|\varphi_2(2)\rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}e^{-i\frac{2\pi^2\hbar^2}{2ma^2}t}|\varphi_1(1)\rangle \otimes |\varphi_1(2)\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}e^{-i\frac{5\pi^2\hbar^2}{2ma^2}t}|\varphi_1(1)\rangle \otimes |\varphi_2(2)\rangle \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}e^{-i\frac{5\pi^2\hbar^2}{2ma^2}t}|\varphi_2(1)\rangle \otimes |\varphi_1(2)\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}e^{-i\frac{4\pi^2\hbar^2}{ma^2}t}|\varphi_2(1)\rangle \otimes |\varphi_2(2)\rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}e^{-i\frac{2\pi^2\hbar^2}{2ma^2}t}|\varphi_1\varphi_1\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}e^{-i\frac{5\pi^2\hbar^2}{2ma^2}t}|\varphi_1\varphi_2\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}e^{-i\frac{5\pi^2\hbar^2}{2ma^2}t}|\varphi_2\varphi_1\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}e^{-i\frac{4\pi^2\hbar^2}{ma^2}t}|\varphi_2\varphi_2\rangle \quad (56) \end{aligned}$$

- ii. The possible measure results for
- \hat{H}
- and their corresponding probabilities are shown in the table below

Results	Probabilities
$\frac{\pi^2\hbar^2}{ma^2}$	$\frac{1}{6}$
$\frac{5\pi^2\hbar^2}{2ma^2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
$\frac{4\pi^2\hbar^2}{ma^2}$	$\frac{1}{3}$

- iii. The possible measure results for
- $\hat{H}(1)$
- and their corresponding probabilities are shown in the table below

Results	Probabilities
$\frac{\pi^2\hbar^2}{2ma^2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
$\frac{2\pi^2\hbar^2}{ma^2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$

- (c) i.
- $|\psi(0)\rangle$
- is a tensor product state:

$$|\psi(0)\rangle = \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}|\psi_1(1)\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}|\psi_2(1)\rangle \right) \otimes \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}|\psi_1(1)\rangle + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3}}|\psi_2(2)\rangle \right) \quad (57)$$

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When the system is in this state,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \langle \hat{H}(1) \rangle &= \langle \varphi(0) | \hat{H}(1) | \varphi(0) \rangle \\
 &= \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \langle \varphi_1(1) | + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \langle \varphi_2(1) | \right) \otimes \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \langle \varphi_1(1) | + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3}} \langle \varphi_2(2) | \right) \hat{H}(1) 1(2) \\
 &\quad \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} | \varphi_1(1) \rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} | \varphi_2(1) \rangle \right) \otimes \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} | \varphi_1(1) \rangle + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3}} | \varphi_2(2) \rangle \right) \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} \frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{2\pi^2 \hbar^2}{ma^2} = \frac{5\pi^2 \hbar^2}{4ma^2}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \langle \hat{H}(2) \rangle &= \langle \psi(0) | \hat{H}(2) | \psi(0) \rangle \\
 &= \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \langle \psi_1(1) | + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \langle \psi_2(1) | \right) \otimes \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \langle \psi_1(1) | + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3}} \langle \psi_2(2) | \right) 1(1) \hat{H}(2) \\
 &\quad \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} | \psi_1(1) \rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} | \psi_2(1) \rangle \right) \otimes \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} | \psi_1(1) \rangle + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3}} | \psi_2(2) \rangle \right) \\
 &= \frac{1}{3} \frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2} + \frac{2}{3} \frac{2\pi^2 \hbar^2}{ma^2} = \frac{3\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \langle \hat{H}(1) \hat{H}(2) \rangle &= \langle \psi(0) | \hat{H}(1) \hat{H}(2) | \psi(0) \rangle \\
 &= \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \langle \psi_1(1) | + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \langle \psi_2(1) | \right) \otimes \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \langle \psi_1(1) | + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3}} \langle \psi_2(2) | \right) \hat{H}(1) \hat{H}(2) \\
 &\quad \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} | \psi_1(1) \rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} | \psi_2(1) \rangle \right) \otimes \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} | \psi_1(1) \rangle + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3}} | \psi_2(2) \rangle \right) \\
 &= \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \langle \psi_1(1) | + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \langle \psi_2(1) | \right) \otimes \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \langle \psi_1(1) | + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3}} \langle \psi_2(2) | \right) \hat{H}(1) \\
 &\quad \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} | \psi_1(1) \rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} | \psi_2(1) \rangle \right) \otimes \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2} | \psi_1(1) \rangle + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3}} \frac{2\pi^2 \hbar^2}{ma^2} | \psi_2(2) \rangle \right) \\
 &= \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \langle \psi_1(1) | + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \langle \psi_2(1) | \right) \otimes \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \langle \psi_1(1) | + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3}} \langle \psi_2(2) | \right) \\
 &\quad \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2} | \psi_1(1) \rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \frac{2\pi^2 \hbar^2}{ma^2} | \psi_2(1) \rangle \right) \otimes \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2} | \psi_1(1) \rangle + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3}} \frac{2\pi^2 \hbar^2}{ma^2} | \psi_2(2) \rangle \right) \\
 &= \frac{15}{8} \left(\frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{ma^2} \right)^2
 \end{aligned} \tag{58}$$

$$\langle \hat{H}(1) \rangle \langle \hat{H}(2) \rangle = \langle \hat{H}(2) \hat{H}(1) \rangle \tag{59}$$

Explanation: Since the two particles (1) and (2) do not interact with each other, their Hamiltonians are independent.

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ii. At time t ,

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle \hat{H}(1) \rangle &= \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} e^{i \frac{2\pi^2 \hbar}{2ma^2} t} \langle \varphi_1 \varphi_1 | + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} e^{i \frac{5\pi^2 \hbar}{2ma^2} t} \langle \varphi_1 \varphi_2 | + \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} e^{i \frac{5\pi^2 \hbar}{2ma^2} t} \langle \varphi_2 \varphi_1 | + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} e^{i \frac{4\pi^2 \hbar}{ma^2} t} \langle \varphi_2 \varphi_2 | \right) \hat{H}(1) \\
&\quad \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} e^{-i \frac{2\pi^2 \hbar}{2ma^2} t} | \varphi_1 \varphi_1 \rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} e^{-i \frac{5\pi^2 \hbar}{2ma^2} t} | \varphi_1 \varphi_2 \rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} e^{-i \frac{5\pi^2 \hbar}{2ma^2} t} | \varphi_2 \varphi_1 \rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} e^{-i \frac{4\pi^2 \hbar}{ma^2} t} | \varphi_2 \varphi_2 \rangle \right) \\
&= \frac{1}{6} \frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2} + \frac{1}{3} \frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2} + \frac{1}{6} \frac{2\pi^2 \hbar^2}{ma^2} + \frac{1}{3} \frac{2\pi^2 \hbar^2}{ma^2} = \frac{5}{4} \frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{ma^2}
\end{aligned} \tag{60}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle \hat{H}(2) \rangle &= \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} e^{i \frac{2\pi^2 \hbar}{2ma^2} t} \langle \varphi_1 \varphi_1 | + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} e^{i \frac{5\pi^2 \hbar}{2ma^2} t} \langle \varphi_1 \varphi_2 | + \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} e^{i \frac{5\pi^2 \hbar}{2ma^2} t} \langle \varphi_2 \varphi_1 | + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} e^{i \frac{4\pi^2 \hbar}{ma^2} t} \langle \varphi_2 \varphi_2 | \right) \hat{H}(2) \\
&\quad \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} e^{-i \frac{2\pi^2 \hbar}{2ma^2} t} | \varphi_1 \varphi_1 \rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} e^{-i \frac{5\pi^2 \hbar}{2ma^2} t} | \varphi_1 \varphi_2 \rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} e^{-i \frac{5\pi^2 \hbar}{2ma^2} t} | \varphi_2 \varphi_1 \rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} e^{-i \frac{4\pi^2 \hbar}{ma^2} t} | \varphi_2 \varphi_2 \rangle \right) \\
&= \frac{1}{6} \frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2} + \frac{1}{3} \frac{2\pi^2 \hbar^2}{ma^2} + \frac{1}{6} \frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2} + \frac{1}{3} \frac{2\pi^2 \hbar^2}{ma^2} = \frac{3\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2}
\end{aligned} \tag{61}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle \hat{H}(1) \hat{H}(2) \rangle &= \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} e^{i \frac{2\pi^2 \hbar}{2ma^2} t} \langle \varphi_1 \varphi_1 | + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} e^{i \frac{5\pi^2 \hbar}{2ma^2} t} \langle \varphi_1 \varphi_2 | + \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} e^{i \frac{5\pi^2 \hbar}{2ma^2} t} \langle \varphi_2 \varphi_1 | + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} e^{i \frac{4\pi^2 \hbar}{ma^2} t} \langle \varphi_2 \varphi_2 | \right) \hat{H}(1) \hat{H}(2) \\
&\quad \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} e^{-i \frac{2\pi^2 \hbar}{2ma^2} t} | \varphi_1 \varphi_1 \rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} e^{-i \frac{5\pi^2 \hbar}{2ma^2} t} | \varphi_1 \varphi_2 \rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} e^{-i \frac{5\pi^2 \hbar}{2ma^2} t} | \varphi_2 \varphi_1 \rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} e^{-i \frac{4\pi^2 \hbar}{ma^2} t} | \varphi_2 \varphi_2 \rangle \right) \\
&= \left(\frac{1}{6} \times \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} \times \frac{1}{2} \times 2 + \frac{1}{6} \times 2 \times \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} \times 2 \times 2 \right) \left(\frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{ma^2} \right) = \frac{15}{8} \left(\frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{ma^2} \right)
\end{aligned} \tag{62}$$

Still,

$$\langle \hat{H}(1) \rangle \langle \hat{H}(2) \rangle = \langle \hat{H}(2) \hat{H}(1) \rangle \tag{63}$$

Therefore, the preceding results remain valid when the state is the state $|\psi(t)\rangle$ calculated in (b).

(d) i. Assume that $|\psi(0)\rangle$ can be put in the form of a tensor product

$$|\psi(0)\rangle = \sum_i a_i |\varphi_i(1)\rangle \otimes \sum_j b_j |\varphi_j(2)\rangle = \sum_{i,j} a_i b_j |\varphi_i(1)\rangle \otimes |\varphi_j(2)\rangle = \sum_{i,j} a_i b_j |\varphi_i \varphi_j\rangle \tag{64}$$

where

$$\sum_i |a_i|^2 = 1 \tag{65}$$

$$\sum_j |b_j|^2 = 1 \tag{66}$$

If so,

$$a_1 b_1 = \sqrt{\frac{1}{5}} \tag{67}$$

$$a_1 b_2 = \sqrt{\frac{3}{5}} \tag{68}$$

$$a_2 b_1 = \sqrt{\frac{1}{5}} \tag{69}$$

$$a_i b_j = 0 \quad (\text{for } i \neq 1, j \neq 1) \tag{70}$$

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From equation (68) and (69), we know

$$a_2 \neq 0, \quad b_2 \neq 0 \quad (71)$$

which means

$$a_2 b_2 \neq 0 \quad (72)$$

contradicting equation (70).

Therefore, the assumption above is incorrect and $|\psi(0)\rangle$ cannot be put in the form of a tensor product.

When the system is in this state,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \hat{H}(1) \rangle &= \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \langle \varphi_1 \varphi_1 | + \sqrt{\frac{3}{5}} \langle \varphi_1 \varphi_2 | + \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \langle \varphi_2 \varphi_1 | \right) \hat{H}(1) \\ &\quad \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} | \varphi_1 \varphi_1 \rangle + \sqrt{\frac{3}{5}} | \varphi_1 \varphi_2 \rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} | \varphi_2 \varphi_1 \rangle \right) \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \langle \varphi_1(1) | \otimes \langle \varphi_1(2) | + \sqrt{\frac{3}{5}} \langle \varphi_1(1) | \otimes \langle \varphi_2(2) | + \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \langle \varphi_2(1) | \otimes \langle \varphi_1(2) | \right) \hat{H}(1) 1(2) \\ &\quad \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} | \varphi_1(1) \rangle \otimes | \varphi_1(2) \rangle + \sqrt{\frac{3}{5}} | \varphi_1(1) \rangle \otimes | \varphi_2(2) \rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} | \varphi_2(1) \rangle \otimes | \varphi_2(2) \rangle \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{5} \frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2} + \frac{3}{5} \frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2} + \frac{1}{5} \frac{2\pi^2 \hbar^2}{ma^2} = \frac{4\pi^2 \hbar^2}{5ma^2} \end{aligned} \quad (73)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \hat{H}(2) \rangle &= \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \langle \varphi_1 \varphi_1 | + \sqrt{\frac{3}{5}} \langle \varphi_1 \varphi_2 | + \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \langle \varphi_2 \varphi_1 | \right) \hat{H}(2) \\ &\quad \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} | \varphi_1 \varphi_1 \rangle + \sqrt{\frac{3}{5}} | \varphi_1 \varphi_2 \rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} | \varphi_2 \varphi_1 \rangle \right) \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \langle \varphi_1(1) | \otimes \langle \varphi_1(2) | + \sqrt{\frac{3}{5}} \langle \varphi_1(1) | \otimes \langle \varphi_2(2) | + \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \langle \varphi_2(1) | \otimes \langle \varphi_1(2) | \right) 1(1) \hat{H}(2) \\ &\quad \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} | \varphi_1(1) \rangle \otimes | \varphi_1(2) \rangle + \sqrt{\frac{3}{5}} | \varphi_1(1) \rangle \otimes | \varphi_2(2) \rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} | \varphi_2(1) \rangle \otimes | \varphi_2(2) \rangle \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{5} \frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2} + \frac{3}{5} \frac{2\pi^2 \hbar^2}{ma^2} + \frac{1}{5} \frac{2\pi^2 \hbar^2}{ma^2} = \frac{17\pi^2 \hbar^2}{10ma^2} \end{aligned} \quad (74)$$

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$$\begin{aligned}
\langle \hat{H}(1)\hat{H}(2) \rangle &= \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \langle \varphi_1 \varphi_1 | + \sqrt{\frac{3}{5}} \langle \varphi_1 \varphi_2 | + \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \langle \varphi_2 \varphi_1 | \right) \hat{H}(1)\hat{H}(2) \\
&\quad \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} | \varphi_1 \varphi_1 \rangle + \sqrt{\frac{3}{5}} | \varphi_1 \varphi_2 \rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} | \varphi_2 \varphi_1 \rangle \right) \\
&= \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \langle \varphi_1 \varphi_1 | + \sqrt{\frac{3}{5}} \langle \varphi_1 \varphi_2 | + \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \langle \varphi_2 \varphi_1 | \right) \hat{H}(1) \\
&\quad \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2} | \varphi_1 \varphi_1 \rangle + \sqrt{\frac{3}{5}} \frac{2\pi^2 \hbar^2}{ma^2} | \varphi_1 \varphi_2 \rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \frac{2\pi^2 \hbar^2}{ma^2} | \varphi_2 \varphi_1 \rangle \right) \\
&= \left(\frac{1}{5} \times \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} + \frac{3}{5} \times \frac{1}{2} \times 2 + \frac{1}{5} \times 2 \times \frac{1}{2} \right) \left(\frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{ma^2} \right)^2 = \frac{17}{20} \left(\frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{ma^2} \right) \quad (75)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\langle \hat{H}(1) \rangle \langle \hat{H}(2) \rangle \neq \langle \hat{H}(1)\hat{H}(2) \rangle \quad (76)$$

Explanation: The state $|\psi(0)\rangle$ cannot be put in the form of a tensor product, and thus, is not an existent state that satisfies that the Hamiltonians of the two particles are independent.

ii. The state at time t derived from the above-given $|\psi(0)\rangle$ is

$$\begin{aligned}
|\psi(t)\rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} e^{-i\frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2}t/\hbar} |\varphi_1(1)\rangle \otimes e^{-i\frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2}t/\hbar} |\varphi_1(2)\rangle + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{5}} e^{-i\frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2}t/\hbar} |\varphi_1(1)\rangle \otimes e^{-i\frac{2\pi^2 \hbar^2}{ma^2}t/\hbar} |\varphi_2(2)\rangle \\
&\quad + \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} e^{-i\frac{2\pi^2 \hbar^2}{ma^2}t/\hbar} |\varphi_2(1)\rangle \otimes e^{-i\frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2}t/\hbar} |\varphi_1(2)\rangle \\
&= \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} e^{-i\frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{ma^2}t} |\varphi_1(1)\rangle \otimes |\varphi_1(2)\rangle + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{5}} e^{-i\frac{3\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2}t} |\varphi_1(1)\rangle \otimes |\varphi_2(2)\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} e^{-i\frac{3\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2}t} |\varphi_2(1)\rangle \otimes |\varphi_1(2)\rangle \\
&= \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} e^{-i\frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{ma^2}t} |\varphi_1 \varphi_1\rangle + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{5}} e^{-i\frac{3\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2}t} |\varphi_1 \varphi_2\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} e^{-i\frac{3\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2}t} |\varphi_2 \varphi_1\rangle \quad (77)
\end{aligned}$$

When the state is in the state $|\psi(t)\rangle$,

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle \hat{H}(1) \rangle &= \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} e^{i\frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{ma^2}t} \langle \varphi_1 \varphi_1 | + \sqrt{\frac{3}{5}} e^{i\frac{3\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2}t} \langle \varphi_1 \varphi_2 | + \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} e^{i\frac{3\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2}t} \langle \varphi_2 \varphi_1 | \right) \hat{H}(1) \\
&\quad \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} e^{-i\frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{ma^2}t} | \varphi_1 \varphi_1 \rangle + \sqrt{\frac{3}{5}} e^{-i\frac{3\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2}t} | \varphi_1 \varphi_2 \rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} e^{-i\frac{3\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2}t} | \varphi_2 \varphi_1 \rangle \right) \\
&= \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \langle \varphi_1(1) | \otimes \langle \varphi_1(2) | + \sqrt{\frac{3}{5}} \langle \varphi_1(1) | \otimes \langle \varphi_2(2) | + \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \langle \varphi_2(1) | \otimes \langle \varphi_1(2) | \right) \hat{H}(1) 1(2) \\
&\quad \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} | \varphi_1(1) \rangle \otimes | \varphi_1(2) \rangle + \sqrt{\frac{3}{5}} | \varphi_1(1) \rangle \otimes | \varphi_2(2) \rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} | \varphi_2(1) \rangle \otimes | \varphi_1(2) \rangle \right) \\
&= \frac{1}{5} \frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2} + \frac{3}{5} \frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2} + \frac{1}{5} \frac{2\pi^2 \hbar^2}{ma^2} = \frac{4\pi^2 \hbar^2}{5ma^2} \quad (78)
\end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{aligned}
\langle \hat{H}(2) \rangle &= \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} e^{i \frac{\pi^2 \hbar}{ma^2} t} \langle \varphi_1 \varphi_1 | + \sqrt{\frac{3}{5}} e^{i \frac{3\pi^2 \hbar}{2ma^2} t} \langle \varphi_1 \varphi_2 | + \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} e^{i \frac{3\pi^2 \hbar}{2ma^2} t} \langle \varphi_2 \varphi_1 | \right) \hat{H}(2) \\
&\quad \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} e^{-i \frac{\pi^2 \hbar}{ma^2} t} |\varphi_1 \varphi_1\rangle + \sqrt{\frac{3}{5}} e^{-i \frac{3\pi^2 \hbar}{2ma^2} t} |\varphi_1 \varphi_2\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} e^{-i \frac{3\pi^2 \hbar}{2ma^2} t} |\varphi_2 \varphi_1\rangle \right) \\
&= \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \langle \varphi_1(1) | \otimes \langle \varphi_1(2) | + \sqrt{\frac{3}{5}} \langle \varphi_1(1) | \otimes \langle \varphi_2(2) | + \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \langle \varphi_2(1) | \otimes \langle \varphi_1(2) | \right) 1(1) \hat{H}(2) \\
&\quad \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} |\varphi_1(1)\rangle \otimes |\varphi_1(2)\rangle + \sqrt{\frac{3}{5}} |\varphi_1(1)\rangle \otimes |\varphi_2(2)\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} |\varphi_2(1)\rangle \otimes |\varphi_1(2)\rangle \right) \\
&= \frac{1}{5} \frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2} + \frac{3}{5} \frac{2\pi^2 \hbar^2}{ma^2} + \frac{1}{5} \frac{2\pi^2 \hbar^2}{ma^2} = \frac{17\pi^2 \hbar^2}{10ma^2} \tag{79}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle \hat{H}(1) \hat{H}(2) \rangle &= \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} e^{i \frac{\pi^2 \hbar}{ma^2} t} \langle \varphi_1 \varphi_1 | + \sqrt{\frac{3}{5}} e^{i \frac{3\pi^2 \hbar}{2ma^2} t} \langle \varphi_1 \varphi_2 | + \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} e^{i \frac{3\pi^2 \hbar}{2ma^2} t} \langle \varphi_2 \varphi_1 | \right) \hat{H}(1) \hat{H}(2) \\
&\quad \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} e^{-i \frac{\pi^2 \hbar}{ma^2} t} |\varphi_1 \varphi_1\rangle + \sqrt{\frac{3}{5}} e^{-i \frac{3\pi^2 \hbar}{2ma^2} t} |\varphi_1 \varphi_2\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} e^{-i \frac{3\pi^2 \hbar}{2ma^2} t} |\varphi_2 \varphi_1\rangle \right) \\
&= \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} e^{i \frac{\pi^2 \hbar}{ma^2} t} \langle \varphi_1 \varphi_1 | + \sqrt{\frac{3}{5}} e^{i \frac{3\pi^2 \hbar}{2ma^2} t} \langle \varphi_1 \varphi_2 | + \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} e^{i \frac{3\pi^2 \hbar}{2ma^2} t} \langle \varphi_2 \varphi_1 | \right) \hat{H}(1) \\
&\quad \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} e^{-i \frac{\pi^2 \hbar}{ma^2} t} \frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2} |\varphi_1 \varphi_1\rangle + \sqrt{\frac{3}{5}} e^{-i \frac{3\pi^2 \hbar}{2ma^2} t} \frac{2\pi^2 \hbar^2}{ma^2} |\varphi_1 \varphi_2\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} e^{-i \frac{3\pi^2 \hbar}{2ma^2} t} \frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2} |\varphi_2 \varphi_1\rangle \right) \\
&= \left(\frac{1}{5} \times \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} + \frac{3}{5} \times \frac{1}{2} \times 2 + \frac{1}{5} \times 2 \times \frac{1}{2} \right) \left(\frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{ma^2} \right) = \frac{17\pi^2 \hbar^2}{20ma^2} \tag{80}
\end{aligned}$$

Still,

$$\langle \hat{H}(1) \rangle \langle \hat{H}(2) \rangle \neq \langle \hat{H}(1) \hat{H}(2) \rangle \tag{81}$$

Therefore, the preceding results remain valid when the state of the system is the state $|\psi(t)\rangle$ derived from the above-given $|\psi(0)\rangle$.

- (e) The tensor product of the state $|\psi(0)\rangle = \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |\varphi_1(1)\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |\varphi_2(1)\rangle \right) \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} |\varphi_1(2)\rangle + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3}} |\varphi_2(2)\rangle \right)$ given in (b) can be written as

$$|\psi(0)\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} & \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3}} & 0 & 0 & \dots \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix} \tag{82}$$

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The density matrix corresponding to the ket $|\psi(0)\rangle$ is

$$\rho(0) = |\psi(0)\rangle\langle\psi(0)| = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix} \quad (83)$$

At time t , the tensor product of the state is

$$\begin{aligned} |\psi(t)\rangle &= \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} e^{-i\frac{\pi^2\hbar}{2ma^2}t} |\varphi_1(1)\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} e^{-i\frac{2\pi^2\hbar}{ma^2}t} |\varphi_2(1)\rangle \right) \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} e^{-i\frac{\pi^2\hbar}{2ma^2}t} |\varphi_1(2)\rangle + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3}} |\varphi_2(2)\rangle \right) \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} e^{-i\frac{\pi^2\hbar}{2ma^2}t} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} e^{-i\frac{2\pi^2\hbar}{ma^2}t} \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} e^{-i\frac{\pi^2\hbar}{2ma^2}t} & \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3}} e^{-i\frac{2\pi^2\hbar}{ma^2}t} & 0 & 0 & \cdots \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} e^{-i\frac{\pi^2\hbar}{ma^2}t} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} e^{-i\frac{3\pi^2\hbar}{2ma^2}t} & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} e^{-i\frac{3\pi^2\hbar}{2ma^2}t} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} e^{-i\frac{4\pi^2\hbar}{ma^2}t} & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

The matrix element of the partial trace $\rho(1)$ is

$$\begin{aligned} \langle\varphi_n(1)|\rho(1)|\varphi_{n'}(1)\rangle &= \sum_p (\langle\varphi_n(1)| \otimes \langle\varphi_p(2)|) \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |\varphi_1(1)\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |\varphi_2(1)\rangle \right) \otimes \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} |\varphi_1(2)\rangle + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3}} |\varphi_2(2)\rangle \right) \\ &\quad \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \langle\varphi_1(1)| + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \langle\varphi_2(1)| \right) \otimes \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \langle\varphi_1(2)| + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3}} \langle\varphi_2(2)| \right) (|\varphi_{n'}(1)\rangle \otimes |\varphi_p(2)\rangle) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} (\delta_{1n} + \delta_{2n}) (\delta_{1n'} + \delta_{2n'}) \end{aligned} \quad (84)$$

$$\Rightarrow \rho(1) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix} \quad (85)$$

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Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \langle \varphi_p(1) | \rho(1) | \varphi_{p'}(1) \rangle &= \sum_n (\langle \varphi_n(1) | \otimes \langle \varphi_p(2) |) \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |\varphi_1(1)\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |\varphi_2(1)\rangle \right) \otimes \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} |\varphi_1(2)\rangle + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3}} |\varphi_2(2)\rangle \right) \\
 &\quad \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \langle \varphi_1(1) | + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \langle \varphi_2(1) | \right) \otimes \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \langle \varphi_1(2) | + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3}} \langle \varphi_2(2) | \right) (|\varphi_n(1)\rangle \otimes |\varphi_{p'}(2)\rangle) \\
 &= \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \delta_{1p} + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3}} \delta_{2p} \right) \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \delta_{1p'} + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3}} \delta_{2p'} \right)
 \end{aligned} \tag{86}$$

$$\Rightarrow \rho(2) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{3} & \frac{\sqrt{2}}{3} & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ \frac{\sqrt{2}}{3} & \frac{2}{3} & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix} \tag{87}$$

Since

$$\rho^2 = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix} \tag{88}$$

$$\text{Tr}(\rho^2) = \text{Tr} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix} = 1 \tag{89}$$

$$\rho^2(1) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix} \tag{90}$$

$$\text{Tr} \rho^2(1) = \text{Tr} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix} = 1 \tag{91}$$

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$$\rho^2(2) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{3} & \frac{\sqrt{2}}{3} & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ \frac{\sqrt{2}}{3} & \frac{2}{3} & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{3} & \frac{\sqrt{2}}{3} & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ \frac{\sqrt{2}}{3} & \frac{2}{3} & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{3} & \frac{\sqrt{2}}{3} & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ \frac{\sqrt{2}}{3} & \frac{2}{3} & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix} \quad (92)$$

$$\text{Tr} \rho^2(2) = \text{Tr} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{3} & \frac{\sqrt{2}}{3} & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ \frac{\sqrt{2}}{3} & \frac{2}{3} & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix} = 1 \quad (93)$$

the density operators ρ , $\rho(1)$ and $\rho(2)$ all describe pure states.

$$\rho(1) \otimes \rho(2) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{3} & \frac{\sqrt{2}}{3} & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ \frac{\sqrt{2}}{3} & \frac{2}{3} & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix} = \rho \quad (94)$$

Interpretation: Since the density operators ρ , $\rho(1)$ and $\rho(2)$ all describe pure states, ρ can be factored into $\rho(1)$ and $\rho(2)$.

□

Problem 5. [C-T Exercise 3-17] Let $\hat{\rho}$ be the density operator of an arbitrary system, where $|\chi_l\rangle$ and π_l are the eigenvectors and eigenvalues of $\hat{\rho}$. Write $\hat{\rho}$ and $\hat{\rho}^2$ in terms of the $|\chi_l\rangle$ and π_l . What do the matrices representing these two operators in the $\{|\chi_l\rangle\}$ basis look like — first, in the case where $\hat{\rho}$ describes a pure state and then, in the case of a statistical mixture of states? (Begin by showing that, in a pure case, $\hat{\rho}$ has only one non-zero diagonal element, equal to 1, while for a statistical mixture, $\hat{\rho}$ several diagonal elements included between 0 and 1.) Show that $\hat{\rho}$ corresponds to a pure case if and only if the trace of $\hat{\rho}^2$ is equal to 1.

Solution:

$$\hat{\rho} = \sum_l \pi_l |\xi_l\rangle \langle \xi_l| \quad (95)$$

$$\hat{\rho}^2 = \sum_l \pi_l^2 |\xi_l\rangle \langle \xi_l| \quad (96)$$

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The matrix representation of these operators in the $\{\xi_l\}$ are

$$\hat{\rho} = \begin{pmatrix} \pi_1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & \pi_2 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & \pi_3 & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix} \quad (97)$$

$$\hat{\rho}^2 = \begin{pmatrix} \pi_1^2 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & \pi_2^2 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & \pi_3^2 & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix} \quad (98)$$

where

$$0 \leq \pi_l \leq 1 \quad (99)$$

$$\sum_l \pi_l = 1 \quad (100)$$

In the case where $\hat{\rho}$ describes a pure state,

$$\hat{\rho}^2 = \begin{pmatrix} \pi_1^2 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & \pi_2^2 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & \pi_3^2 & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix} = \hat{\rho} = \begin{pmatrix} \pi_1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & \pi_2 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & \pi_3 & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix} \quad (101)$$

$$\text{Tr} \hat{\rho}^2 = \pi_1^2 + \pi_2^2 + \pi_3^2 + \cdots = 1 \quad (102)$$

$$\Rightarrow \pi_l = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{for one certain } l \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (103)$$

the matrices representing of these operators in the $\{\xi_l\}$ are diagonal matrix whose diagonal elements are all zeros except one is 1.

In the case of a statistical mixture of states,

$$0 \leq \text{Tr} \hat{\rho}^2 = \sum_l \pi_l^2 < 1 \quad (104)$$

the matrices representing of these operators in the $\{\xi_l\}$ are diagonal matrix whose diagonal elements are all at the range of $[0, 1)$ and satisfies $0 \leq \sum_l \pi_l^2 \leq 1$.

The necessity has been proven above.

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Sufficiency: If the trace of $\hat{\rho}^2$ is equal to 1,

$$0 \leq \pi_l \leq 1 \quad (105)$$

$$0 \leq \sum_l \pi_l = 1 \quad (106)$$

$$\text{Tr} \hat{\rho}^2 = \sum_l \pi_l^2 = 1 \quad (107)$$

$$\Rightarrow \pi_l = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{for one certain } l \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (108)$$

In this way, $\hat{\rho}$ corresponds to a pure case.

Therefore, if only if the trace of $\hat{\rho}^2$ is equal to 1, $\hat{\rho}$ corresponds to a pure case. □