

Quantum Nano engines (fix title)

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Abstract

Make abstract Todo. 1. sinusodially spelling 2. Make graphs for coherent and squeezed state.

1 Introduction

The classical limits of the maximum achievable efficiency of an ideal heat engine running between temperatures T_{hot} and T_{cold} is given by Carnot's formula $\eta_{Carnot} = 1 - \frac{T_{cold}}{T_{hot}}$. The efficiency of real engines are, however, a fraction of this ideal formula, as the reversible Carnot engine is infinitely slow, and there are frictional dissipations in the real world. Nano engines based on the principles of Quantum Mechanics can achieve much higher efficiencies than their classical counterparts and can have efficiency close to the Carnot limit. These engines have been realized in many forms including of ion traps[ref], three level systems[ref], harmonic oscillators [ref]. It has been shown both theoretically[Abah] and experimentally[Klaers] that the efficiencies of engines realized using "squeezed harmonic oscillators" can even surpass the Carnot limit, without violating the second law of thermodynamics. In this report, it will be elaborated in which sense the Carnot limit is surpassed, and why the second law is not violated. To see how the experiment[ref Klaers] was done, let us recap squeezed states of harmonic oscillator and Brownian motion.

2 Theory of the for Brownian Harmonic oscillator

Before we discuss squeezed states, let us review “Coherent states” of a harmonic oscillator.

2.1 Coherent states

The position and momentum of classical harmonic oscillator (a particle of mass m in potential $\frac{1}{2}m\omega^2x^2$) oscillates with period ω , its natural frequency. However, in quantum mechanics, the expectation value of position or momentum of an eigenstate of the Hamiltonian does not change with time.

For the harmonic oscillator, the Hamiltonian is $\hat{H} = \frac{\hat{p}^2}{2m} + \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2\hat{x}^2$.

Let the eigenstates of \hat{H} be denoted by $|n\rangle$. It can be shown (ref. Cohen Tannoudji) that it has energy $E_n = (n + \frac{1}{2})\hbar\omega$. The state evolves with time as $|n, t\rangle = e^{-i(n+\frac{1}{2})\omega t} |n, t=0\rangle$, and will have equal energies $(n + \frac{1}{2})\frac{\hbar\omega}{2}$ in position and momentum coordinates. And, the expected values of position and momentum are 0 and do not change over time. There exist quantum states whose expected values of position and momentum oscillate sinusoidally with time, and the wave packet does not spread with time. These are known as “Coherent states”.

Let us define $x_0 = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{m\omega}}$ and $p_0 = \sqrt{\hbar m\omega}$, and dimensionless operators $\hat{X} = \frac{\hat{x}}{x_0}, \hat{P} = \frac{\hat{p}}{p_0}$. Then we can rewrite $\hat{H} = \frac{\hbar\omega}{2}(\hat{X}^2 + \hat{P}^2)$. Let us define two non Hermitian operators $\hat{a} = \frac{\hat{X} + i\hat{P}}{\sqrt{2}}$, and $\hat{a}^\dagger = \frac{\hat{X} - i\hat{P}}{\sqrt{2}}$. Then, $[\hat{a}, \hat{a}^\dagger] = 1$, and the Hamiltonian can be written as $\hat{H} = \hbar\omega(\hat{a}^\dagger\hat{a} + \frac{1}{2})$. \hat{a}^\dagger and \hat{a} are known as “creation” and “annihilation” operators, respectively, because they act on the eigenstates as follows.

$$\hat{a}|n\rangle = \sqrt{n}|n-1\rangle \quad (1)$$

$$\hat{a}^\dagger|n\rangle = \sqrt{n+1}|n+1\rangle \quad (2)$$

We can define $\hat{N} = \hat{a}^\dagger\hat{a}$, and then, $\hat{N}|n\rangle = n|n\rangle$, denoting the number of excitations (e.g. photons or phonons) in the system. The creation and annihilation operators can be viewed as operators which create or destroy such an excitation, respectively, hence their name.

The operator \hat{a} acts on $|0\rangle$ (the vacuum state) to give the zero vector of the Hilbert space. However, there exist states which are eigenstates of the annihilation operator, and these states are known as the coherent states. (ref. Wikipedia)

Let

$$\hat{a}|\alpha\rangle = \alpha|\alpha\rangle \quad (3)$$

, where α is a complex number, and $|\alpha\rangle$ is a coherent state. Since $|n\rangle$ form a basis of the Hilbert space, $\exists c_n \in \mathbb{C}$, such that

$$|\alpha\rangle = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n |n\rangle \quad (4)$$

From equations (3) and (4), we get, $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n \hat{a} |n\rangle = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \alpha c_n |n\rangle$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \sqrt{n} |n-1\rangle = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \alpha c_n |n\rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_{n+1} \sqrt{n+1} |n\rangle = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \alpha c_n |n\rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow c_{n+1} \sqrt{n+1} = \alpha c_n$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{c_{n+1} \sqrt{(n+1)!}}{\alpha^{n+1}} = \frac{c_n \sqrt{n!}}{\alpha^n}$$

$$= \frac{c_0 \sqrt{0!}}{\alpha^0}$$

$$\Rightarrow c_n = c_0 \frac{\alpha^n}{\sqrt{n!}}$$

Since $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} |c_n|^2 = 1 \Rightarrow c_0 = e^{-\frac{|\alpha|^2}{2}}$. Finally we get $|\alpha\rangle = e^{-\frac{|\alpha|^2}{2}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\alpha^n}{\sqrt{n!}} |n\rangle$, and

$|\alpha, t\rangle = e^{-\frac{|\alpha|^2 + i\omega t}{2}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(\alpha e^{-i\omega t})^n}{\sqrt{n!}} |n\rangle$. So the state remains a coherent state over time, only

the parameter α evolves as $\alpha(t) = \alpha(0)e^{-i\omega t}$. Now,

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \langle \hat{a} \rangle = \alpha \\ \langle \hat{a}^\dagger \rangle = \alpha^* \\ \langle x \rangle = x_0 \left(\frac{\hat{a} + \hat{a}^\dagger}{2} \right) = x_0 \frac{\alpha + \alpha^*}{2} \\ \langle p \rangle = p_0 \left\langle \frac{\hat{a} - \hat{a}^\dagger}{\sqrt{2}i} \right\rangle = p_0 \frac{\alpha - \alpha^*}{2i} \\ \langle \hat{x}^2 \rangle = x_0^2 \left\langle \frac{\hat{a}^2 + \hat{a}^{\dagger 2} + \hat{a}\hat{a}^\dagger + \hat{a}^\dagger\hat{a}}{2} \right\rangle = \frac{\alpha^2 + \alpha^{*2} + 2|\alpha|^2 + 1}{2} x_0^2 \\ \langle \hat{p}^2 \rangle = p_0^2 \left\langle \frac{\hat{a}^2 + \hat{a}^{\dagger 2} - \hat{a}\hat{a}^\dagger - \hat{a}^\dagger\hat{a}}{-2} \right\rangle = \frac{2|\alpha|^2 + 1 - \alpha^2 - \alpha^{*2}}{2} p_0^2 \\ \langle E \rangle = \frac{\hbar\omega}{2} (\hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} + 1) = \frac{\hbar\omega}{2} (|\alpha|^2 + 1) \\ (\Delta x)^2 = \frac{x_0^2}{2} \\ (\Delta p)^2 = \frac{p_0^2}{2} \\ \Delta x \cdot \Delta p = x_0 p_0 = \frac{\hbar}{2} \end{array} \right. \quad (5)$$

Now let $\alpha = |\alpha|e^{i\phi}$. Then, $\langle x \rangle(t) = \sqrt{2}x_0 \text{Re}\{\alpha(t)\} = \sqrt{2}x_0|\alpha| \cos(\phi - \omega t)$, and $\langle p \rangle(t) = \sqrt{2}p_0 \text{Im}\{\alpha(t)\} = \sqrt{2}p_0|\alpha| \sin(\phi - \omega t)$. The total energy, the standard deviations in position and momentum remain constant, while the expected position and momentum vary sinusodially with time, just like a classical particle. Solving the first order differential equation obtained from (3) in position basis, it can be easily shown that the wave function $\psi_\alpha(x) = \langle x|\alpha \rangle$ is a Gaussian, and its mean $\langle x \rangle$ changes sinusodially with time.

2.2 Squeezed states

The coherent state behaves like a classical particle in a harmonic potential, and it has equal uncertainty in position and momentum. However, there exist states which have different values of standard deviation in position and momentum coordinates. In the next section, we will see that the uncertainty is related to the effective temperature in these coordinates, and this can be utilized to prepare efficient heat engines. Let us define

$$\hat{Q} = \lambda \hat{a} + \mu \hat{a}^\dagger \quad (6)$$

where $|\lambda|^2 - |\mu|^2 = 1$. Let $\lambda = \cosh(r)$, $\mu = \sinh(r)e^{i\phi}$, where $r, \phi \in \mathbb{R}$. The eigenstates of \hat{Q} are defined as the squeezed states. (reference of squeezed state). We have the following operator relations.

$$\begin{pmatrix} \hat{Q} \\ \hat{Q}^\dagger \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda & \mu \\ \mu^* & \lambda^* \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \hat{a} \\ \hat{a}^\dagger \end{pmatrix}$$

Inverting, we get,

$$\begin{pmatrix} \hat{a} \\ \hat{a}^\dagger \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda & -\mu \\ -\mu^* & \lambda \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \hat{Q} \\ \hat{Q}^\dagger \end{pmatrix} \quad (7)$$

Therefore, $\frac{\hat{x}}{x_0} = \frac{\lambda^* - \mu^*}{\sqrt{2}} \hat{Q} + \frac{\lambda - \mu}{\sqrt{2}} \hat{Q}^\dagger$ and $\frac{\hat{p}}{p_0} = \frac{\lambda^* + \mu^*}{\sqrt{2}i} \hat{Q} - \frac{\lambda + \mu}{\sqrt{2}i} \hat{Q}^\dagger$.

$$[\hat{Q}, \hat{Q}^\dagger] = [\lambda \hat{a} + \mu \hat{a}^\dagger, \lambda^* \hat{a}^\dagger + \mu^* \hat{a}] = |\lambda|^2 - |\mu|^2 = 1.$$

Let $\hat{Q} |s\rangle = s |s\rangle$.

2.3 Brownian motion under harmonic potential

2.3.1 Langevin equation

3 Conclusion

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References