

06/05/25

## Lecture - 30

27/11/20

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→ The Standard Deviation is also called Uncertainty!

Q) Now, what relation there could be b/w the Standard Deviations of Two Operators over the same wavefunction?

A) Of course the interesting case is in which the two operators do not commute

A operator,  $\langle A \rangle \Rightarrow$  expectation value of the operator

### Heisenberg Uncertainty Relation — I

Norm of  $\sigma$ ,  
is by construction  
Non negative

Expectation  
value of  $A_0^2$

- Given two Hermitian operators  $A, B$ , the covariance of the eigenvalues is given by

$$\langle (A - \langle A \rangle)(B - \langle B \rangle) \rangle = \langle AB - \langle A \rangle B - \langle B \rangle A + \langle A \rangle \langle B \rangle \rangle = \langle AB \rangle - \langle A \rangle \langle B \rangle.$$

- The operators  $A_0 = A - \langle A \rangle$  and  $B_0 = B - \langle B \rangle$  are also Hermitian; defining the complex functions  $f \doteq A_0\psi$  and  $g \doteq B_0\psi$ , and introducing a real parameter  $\lambda$ , let  $\sigma \doteq f + j\lambda g$ . It is found:

$$\langle \sigma | \sigma \rangle \geq 0 \implies \int_{\tau} [f^*f + j\lambda(f^*g - g^*f) + \lambda^2 g^*g] d\tau \geq 0,$$

$$\int_{\tau} [\psi^* A_0^2 \psi + j\lambda \psi^* (A_0 B_0 - B_0 A_0) \psi + \lambda^2 \psi^* B_0^2 \psi] d\tau \geq 0.$$

- The commutator of  $A_0$  and  $B_0$  is the operator  $C_0$  such that

$$jC_0 = A_0 B_0 - B_0 A_0.$$

- It is easily seen that, if  $A_0$  and  $B_0$  are Hermitian, then  $C_0$  is also Hermitian, whence its eigenvalues are real. From the above

$$\langle A_0^2 \rangle - \lambda \langle C_0 \rangle + \lambda^2 \langle B_0^2 \rangle \geq 0.$$

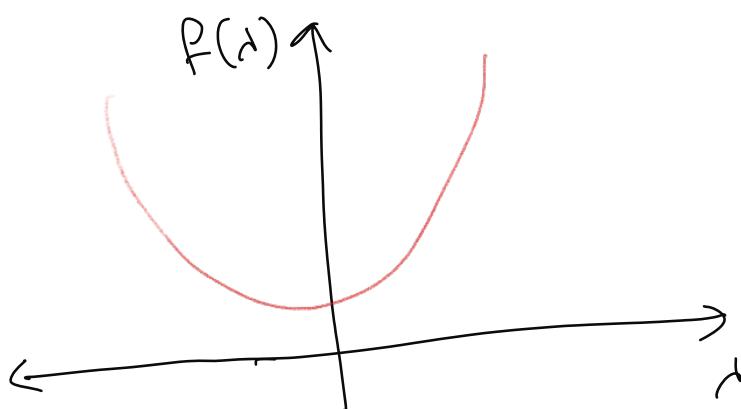
→ We studied that the Eigenvalues of the Hermitian operators are real.

$$f(\lambda) = \langle A_0^2 \rangle - \lambda \langle C_0 \rangle + \lambda^2 \langle B_0^2 \rangle \geq 0$$

In conclusion, we have a 2<sup>nd</sup> order polynomial w.r.t  $\lambda$ . This polynomial has real coefficients

$\langle A_0^2 \rangle$  &  $\langle B_0^2 \rangle$  by construction are +ve

So now, we have to find the condition for which the polynomial is Non-negative -



for  $f(\lambda)$  to be Non-negative the roots of polynomial must be either complex conjugate

( $\Rightarrow$  at most must be equal to each other)

So, the parabola

never touches Horizontal axis (or atleast touches tangentially).

∴ condition for which  $f(\lambda)$  is +ve for any value of  $\lambda$  is that the discriminants of

the polynomial are either Negative or '0'

for quadratic  
eqn :

$$ax^2 + bx + c$$

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a} \quad \text{Discriminant}$$

## Heisenberg Uncertainty Relation — II

It has been found that  $\langle A_0^2 \rangle - \lambda \langle C_0 \rangle + \lambda^2 \langle B_0^2 \rangle$  is a second-order polynomial with real coefficients; for it to be non negative, its discriminant must be non positive:  $\langle C_0 \rangle^2 - 4 \langle A_0^2 \rangle \langle B_0^2 \rangle \leq 0$ . On the other hand, from the definitions it follows  $\langle A_0^2 \rangle = (\Delta A)^2$ ,  $\langle B_0^2 \rangle = (\Delta B)^2$ , and  $\langle C_0 \rangle = \langle C \rangle$ , where the latter is the expectation value of the commutator  $C \doteq (AB - BA)/i$ . In conclusion:

$$\Delta A \Delta B \geq \frac{1}{2} \langle C \rangle.$$

Examples:

- If  $A$  and  $B$  commute, then  $C = 0$  and  $\Delta A \Delta B \geq 0$ , namely, there is no limit to the smallness of  $\Delta A \Delta B$ .
- If  $A = q_i$  and  $B = -i\hbar \partial/\partial q_i$ , then  $C = \hbar I$ ,  $C = \hbar$ , and  $\Delta A \Delta B \geq \frac{\hbar}{2}$  (Heisenberg relation).

Note: the derivation above embeds the proof of the Schwartz inequality  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |f|^2 d\tau \times \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |g|^2 d\tau \geq \left| \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f^* g d\tau \right|^2, \forall f, g$ .

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### Heisenberg Uncertainty Relation — III

- Given  $\mathcal{A} = q_i$  and  $\mathcal{B} = -j\hbar \partial/\partial q_i$ , if  $\psi$  fulfills  $\Delta A \Delta B = \hbar/2$ , then  $\psi$  is called *minimum uncertainty wavefunction*. For this, it must be
 
$$\langle \sigma | \sigma \rangle = 0 \quad \xrightarrow{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \sigma^2 dx = 0} \quad \sigma = f + j\lambda g = (\mathcal{A}_0 + j\lambda \mathcal{B}_0) \psi = 0.$$

- Taking a one-dimensional case for simplicity, and letting  $q_0 \doteq \langle A \rangle$ ,  $p_0 \doteq \hbar k_0 \doteq \langle B \rangle$ , the above yields

$$\lambda \hbar \frac{d\psi}{dq} = [j\lambda p_0 - (q - q_0)] \psi, \quad \frac{d\psi}{\psi} = \left[ jk_0 - \frac{q - q_0}{\lambda \hbar} \right] dq,$$

$$\psi(q) = \psi_0 \exp \left[ jk_0 q - (q - q_0)^2 / (2\lambda \hbar) \right],$$

where the normalization condition  $\langle \psi | \psi \rangle = 1$  yields  $\psi_0 = (\pi \lambda \hbar)^{-1/4}$ . An expression for  $\lambda$  is found from  $(\mathcal{A}_0 + j\lambda \mathcal{B}_0) \psi = 0$ :

$$\mathcal{A}_0 \psi = -j\lambda \mathcal{B}_0 \psi \Rightarrow \langle \mathcal{A}_0^2 \rangle = \lambda^2 \langle \mathcal{B}_0^2 \rangle \Rightarrow \lambda = \frac{\Delta A}{\Delta B} = \frac{(\Delta A)^2}{\hbar/2}.$$

Letting  $\Delta q = \Delta A$  it follows (with  $\Delta q$  still arbitrary)

$$\psi(q) = \frac{1}{\sqrt[4]{2\pi} \sqrt{\Delta q}} \exp \left[ jk_0 q - \frac{(q - q_0)^2}{(2\Delta q)^2} \right].$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A} &= \text{position} = \\ \therefore \mathcal{A}_0 &= \mathcal{A} - \langle \mathcal{A} \rangle \\ \mathcal{B}_0 &= \mathcal{B} - \langle \mathcal{B} \rangle \\ &\downarrow \\ &\text{momentum} \\ \Rightarrow \mathcal{A}_0 &= q - q_0 \\ \mathcal{B}_0 &= j \hbar \frac{d\psi}{dq} - p_0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore (\mathcal{A}_0 + j\lambda \mathcal{B}_0) \psi &= 0 \\ \Downarrow \\ \Rightarrow (q - q_0) \psi + j\lambda \left( -j \hbar \frac{d\psi}{dq} - p_0 \psi \right) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow (q - q_0) \psi + \lambda \hbar \frac{d\psi}{dq} - j\lambda p_0 \psi = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda \hbar \frac{d\psi}{dq} = \left( j\lambda p_0 - (q - q_0) \right) \psi$$

This Diff. eq<sup>n</sup> is separable

$$\frac{d\psi}{\psi} = \left[ jk_0 - \frac{(q - q_0)}{2k\lambda} \right] dq$$

I OBS

$$\Rightarrow \ln \psi = jk_0 q - \frac{q^2 - 2q_0 q}{2k\lambda} + \ln \psi_0 + \frac{(q_0^2)}{2k\lambda}$$

$$\Rightarrow \ln(\psi) = jk_0 q - \frac{q^2 - 2q_0 q + q_0^2}{2k\lambda} + \ln \psi_0 + \text{Integration const.}$$

$$\Rightarrow \ln(\psi) - \ln(\psi_0) = jk_0 q - \frac{(q - q_0)^2}{2k\lambda}$$

$$\Rightarrow \ln\left(\frac{\psi}{\psi_0}\right) = jk_0 q - \frac{(q - q_0)^2}{2k\lambda}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\psi}{\psi_0} = e^{(jk_0 q - \frac{(q - q_0)^2}{2k\lambda})}$$

$$\Rightarrow \Psi(q) = \Psi_0 e^{(jk_0 q - \frac{(q-q_0)^2}{2\hbar d})}$$

This is a Gaussian

$$\Psi(q) = \Psi_0 e^{(jk_0 q)} \cdot e^{-\frac{(q-q_0)^2}{2\hbar d}}$$

This function is Normalizable  
because Gaussian is Integrable and Square  
integrable

Enforce  $\Rightarrow$

$$\langle \psi | \psi \rangle = 1 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \Psi_0 = (\pi \lambda \hbar)^{-1/4}$$

where the normalization condition  $\langle \psi | \psi \rangle = 1$  yields  $\psi_0 = (\pi \lambda \hbar)^{-1/4}$ .  
An expression for  $\lambda$  is found from  $(A_0 + j\lambda B_0) \psi = 0$  :

$$A_0 \psi = -j\lambda B_0 \psi \Rightarrow \langle A_0^2 \rangle = \lambda^2 \langle B_0^2 \rangle \Rightarrow \lambda = \frac{\Delta A}{\Delta B} = \frac{(\Delta A)^2}{\hbar/2}.$$

Letting  $\Delta q = \Delta A$  it follows (with  $\Delta q$  still arbitrary)

$$\psi(q) = \frac{1}{\sqrt[4]{2\pi} \sqrt{\Delta q}} \exp \left[ jk_0 q - \frac{(q-q_0)^2}{(2\Delta q)^2} \right].$$

Gaussian

This is the expression for Minimum Uncertainty wave packet



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## Time Derivative of the Expectation Value — I

- The time derivative of  $\langle A \rangle = \langle \psi | A | \psi \rangle$  is given by

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\tau} \psi^* A \psi d\tau = \int_{\tau} \left( \frac{\partial \psi^*}{\partial t} A \psi + \psi^* \frac{\partial A}{\partial t} \psi + \psi^* A \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} \right) d\tau.$$

- From Schrödinger's equation it follows  $\partial \psi / \partial t = -j\mathcal{H}\psi/\hbar$  and  $\partial \psi^* / \partial t = j\mathcal{H}\psi^*/\hbar$ , whence

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle A \rangle = \frac{j}{\hbar} \int_{\tau} \psi^* (\mathcal{H}A - A\mathcal{H}) \psi d\tau + \int_{\tau} \psi^* \frac{\partial A}{\partial t} \psi d\tau.$$

Expectation values of the commutator

- As a consequence, if  $A$  does not depend on  $t$  and commutes with  $\mathcal{H}$ , then  $\langle A \rangle$  is conserved. Taking  $\mathcal{H} = -\hbar^2/(2m)\nabla^2 + V$ , an important example is  $A = x$ :

$$(\mathcal{H}x - x\mathcal{H})\psi = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \left( x \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} - \frac{\partial^2 x \psi}{\partial x^2} \right) = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \left( -2 \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} \right),$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle x \rangle = \frac{j}{\hbar} \int_{\tau} \psi^* \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \left( -2 \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} \right) d\tau = \frac{1}{m} \langle \psi | \hat{p}_x | \psi \rangle = \frac{\langle p_x \rangle}{m}.$$

In conclusion, the expectation values provide the relation  $d\langle x \rangle / dt = \langle p_x \rangle / m$ , which is formally identical to the classical one.

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle A \rangle = \frac{j}{\hbar} \int_{\tau} \psi^* (\mathcal{H}A - A\mathcal{H}) \psi d\tau + \int_{\tau} \psi^* \frac{\partial A}{\partial t} \psi d\tau$$

if  $A$  commutes with  $\mathcal{H}$   $\int_{\tau} \psi^* \frac{\partial A}{\partial t} \psi d\tau = 0$

\* if

commutes

$$H A = A H$$

The term would  
equal to zero

$\Rightarrow$

$$\int \psi^* \frac{dA}{dt} \psi d\tau = 0$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle A \rangle = 0$$

(A) Expectation value is conserved in Time

expectation of an operator

$\rightarrow$  The property that  $\langle A \rangle$  is conserved is equivalent to saying operator commutes with Hamiltonian

ex: Assuming the case of a free particle

at

$A$  : Momentum operator

$$H = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 \quad (\text{potential for free particle is zero})$$

In this case the Hamiltonian commutes

with momentum operator ( $A$ ) and it implies

that

$\frac{d}{dt} \langle A \rangle = 0$  (Momentum is conserved which is equivalent to situation w.r.t. classical mechanics of a free particle)

→ Obviously, interesting cases are those in which operator  $A$  does not commute with the Hamiltonian  $\mathcal{H}$

$$\mathcal{H} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 + V, \quad A = x$$

$$\Rightarrow (\mathcal{H}x - x\mathcal{H})\psi = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \left( x \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} - \frac{\partial^2 x \psi}{\partial x^2} \right) = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \left( -2 \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} \right),$$

$$\frac{d\langle A \rangle}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt} \langle x \rangle = \frac{j}{\hbar} \int_{\tau} \psi^* \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \left( -2 \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} \right) d\tau = \frac{1}{m} \langle \psi | \hat{p}_x | \psi \rangle = \frac{\langle p_x \rangle}{m}.$$

In conclusion, the expectation values provide the relation  $d\langle x \rangle / dt = \langle p_x \rangle / m$ , which is formally identical to the classical one.

~~At~~

$$\frac{d\langle x \rangle}{dt} = \frac{\langle p_x \rangle}{m}$$

$$\Rightarrow \langle p_x \rangle = m \frac{d\langle x \rangle}{dt}$$

This is like a classical expression

$$P = mV$$

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## Time Derivative of the Expectation Value — II

- Still with  $\mathcal{H} = -\hbar^2/(2m)\nabla^2 + V$ , another important example is  $A = \hat{p}_x = -j\hbar\partial/\partial x$  : **Momentum operator**

**Commutator**  $(\mathcal{H}\hat{p}_x - \hat{p}_x\mathcal{H})\psi = -j\hbar \left( V\frac{\partial\psi}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial V\psi}{\partial x} \right) = j\hbar\psi\frac{\partial V}{\partial x}$ ,

$$\frac{d}{dt}\langle p_x \rangle = \frac{j}{\hbar} \int_{\tau} \psi^* j\hbar\psi \frac{\partial V}{\partial x} d\tau = -\langle \psi | \partial V / \partial x | \psi \rangle = \langle F_x \rangle.$$

- Also in this case the expectation values reproduce the classical relation. If  $\partial V/\partial x$  depends weakly on position in the region where  $\psi$  is significant, then (**Ehrenfest theorem**)

$$\frac{d}{dt}\langle p_x \rangle \simeq -\frac{\partial V}{\partial x} \int_{\tau} \psi^*\psi d\tau = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial x} = F_x.$$

- If, on the contrary,  $\partial V/\partial x$  depends strongly on position (e.g., steps, barriers), then essential differences between the classical and quantum cases are to be expected.

\* \* \* \*

- Here we will choose ' $A$ ' as
  - Momentum operator

Commutator :  $(\mathcal{H}\hat{p}_x - \hat{p}_x\mathcal{H})\psi$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \left( \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} \left( -j\hbar \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} \right) - \left( j\hbar \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} \right) \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} \right) + = 0$$

$$\left( j\hbar V \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} - \left( j\hbar \frac{\partial V}{\partial x} \psi \right) \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow -j\hbar v \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x} + \left( j\hbar \frac{\partial (v\Psi)}{\partial x} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow -j\hbar v \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x} + \left( j\hbar \left( \frac{\partial^2 \Psi}{\partial x^2} - \Psi \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x^2} \right) \right)$$

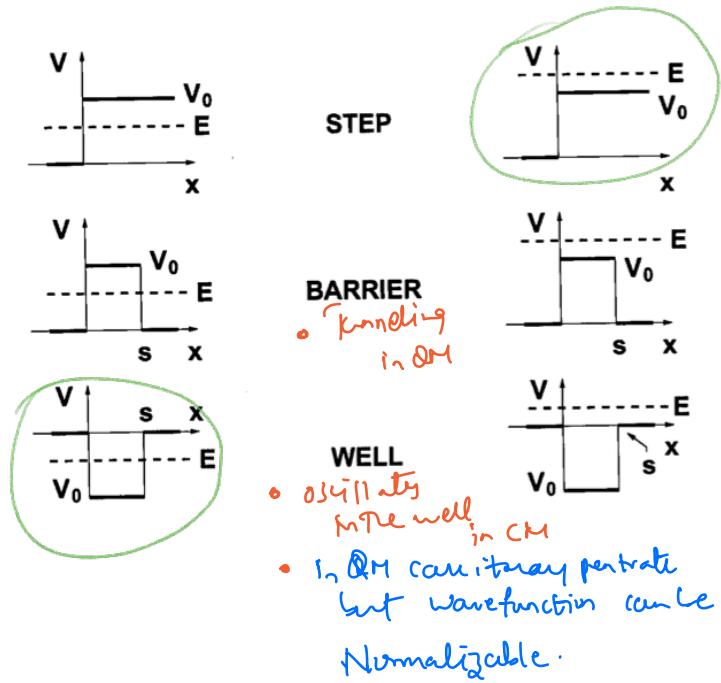
$$\Rightarrow -j\hbar v \cancel{\frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x}} + \cancel{j\hbar v \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x}} - j\hbar \Psi \frac{\partial v}{\partial x}$$

$$(\hat{H}\hat{P}_x - \hat{P}_x\hat{H})\Psi = -j\hbar \Psi \frac{\partial v}{\partial x}$$

~~\*\*\*~~ Not part of the Exam form Now  
 until further Notice ~~\*\*\*~~

Note, we have concluded above that  
~~the cases in which QM is very different from QM~~ is when there are rapid variations in SPACE w.r.t PE ( $v$ )

We are now going to consider some cases which are easy to analyze Analytically.



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