

Define the basis of system and bath

$$|\psi\rangle = \sum_{ij} C_{ij} |S_i\rangle |B_j\rangle$$

take the time evolution of the state

$$|\psi(t)\rangle = \sum_{ij} C_{ij} e^{\frac{-iE_{ij}t}{\hbar}} |S_i\rangle |B_j\rangle$$

Introduce $\rho(t) = |\psi(t)\rangle \langle \psi(t)|$

$$\rho(t) = \left(\sum_{ij} C_{ij} e^{\frac{-iE_{ij}t}{\hbar}} |S_i\rangle |B_j\rangle \right) \left(\sum_{i'j'} C_{i'j'}^* e^{\frac{iE_{i'j'}t}{\hbar}} \langle B_{j'}| \langle S_{i'}| \right)$$

Simplify by introducing the partial trace, $\sum_n \langle B_n | \rho | B_n \rangle$, and using the premed orthonormality of the basis to eliminate the sums over j, j' .

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_n \langle B_n | \rho | B_n \rangle &= \langle B_n | \left(\sum_{ij} C_{ij} e^{\frac{-iE_{ij}t}{\hbar}} |S_i\rangle |B_j\rangle \right) \left(\sum_{i'j'} C_{i'j'}^* e^{\frac{iE_{i'j'}t}{\hbar}} \langle B_{j'}| \langle S_{i'}| \right) | B_n \rangle \\ &= \sum_n \sum_{ii'} C_{in} C_{i'n}^* e^{\frac{-i(E_{in} - E_{i'n})t}{\hbar}} |S_i\rangle \langle S_{i'}| \end{aligned}$$

Now introduce the element of the reduced density matrix, $\hat{\rho}_{S_1, S_2}^{\text{reduced}}(t) = |S_1\rangle \sum_n \langle B_n | \rho | B_n \rangle \langle S_2|$

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\rho}_{S_1, S_2}^{\text{reduced}}(t) &= |S_1\rangle \sum_n \langle B_n | \rho | B_n \rangle \langle S_2| \\ \hat{\rho}_{S_1, S_2}^{\text{reduced}}(t) &= \langle S_1 | \left(\sum_n \sum_{ii'} C_{in} C_{i'n}^* e^{\frac{-i(E_{in} - E_{i'n})t}{\hbar}} |S_i\rangle \langle S_{i'}| \right) | S_2 \rangle \end{aligned}$$

use orthonormality again to eliminate sums over i, i'

$$\hat{\rho}_{S_1, S_2}^{\text{reduced}}(t) = \sum_n C_{1n} C_{2n}^* e^{\frac{-i(E_{1n} - E_{2n})t}{\hbar}}$$