

QM

If $\langle \frac{d\hat{Q}}{dt} \rangle = 0$ and $[\hat{H}, \hat{Q}] = 0$, then $\langle Q \rangle$ is constant in time. Any such $\langle Q \rangle$ is a constant, conserved quantity.

$$\boxed{\frac{d}{dt} \langle Q \rangle = \frac{i}{\hbar} \langle [\hat{H}, \hat{Q}] \rangle + \langle \frac{\partial \hat{Q}}{\partial t} \rangle}$$

(note that since \hat{H} commutes w/ itself, Energy is conserved.)

recall generalized uncertainty relation:

$$\sigma_H^2 \sigma_Q^2 \geq \underbrace{\left(\langle \frac{1}{2i} [\hat{H}, \hat{Q}] \rangle \right)^2}_{= \left(\frac{1}{2i} \frac{\hbar}{i} \frac{d \langle Q \rangle}{dt} \right)^2} = \left(\frac{\hbar}{2} \right)^2 \left(\frac{d \langle Q \rangle}{dt} \right)^2$$

then if $\frac{d \langle Q \rangle}{dt}$ is non-zero, there is an uncertainty associated w/ energy.

$$\sigma_H \sigma_Q \geq \frac{\hbar}{2} \left| \frac{d \langle Q \rangle}{dt} \right| \quad (\text{get rid of the squares})$$

define $\Delta t = \frac{\sigma_Q}{\left| \frac{d \langle Q \rangle}{dt} \right|}$: given an uncertainty in $\langle Q \rangle$, Δt is how long it takes for that value to change by σ_Q .

define $\Delta E = \sigma_H$, then

$$\boxed{\Delta E \Delta t \geq \frac{\hbar}{2}}$$

(second uncertainty relation of energy and time)

Okay, but what does that really mean? If something is around for a finite time, its energy is uncertain... Additionally, particles may "borrow" energy for some small amount of time.

Note that if we don't care about time (time independent), $\Delta t \rightarrow \infty$, so ΔE can $\rightarrow 0$.

If you isolate a particle in time, its precise energy becomes uncertain.