

# Equivalence of Density Matrix and Wavefunction Formalisms for Pure States

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Let  $\rho = |\psi\rangle\langle\psi|$ . Then, we have

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (|\psi\rangle\langle\psi|) \quad (1)$$

$$= i\hbar \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial t} |\psi\rangle\langle\psi| + |\psi\rangle \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \langle\psi| \right) \quad (2)$$

We note the following from Schrodinger's equation

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} |\psi\rangle = \hat{H} |\psi\rangle \quad (3)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} |\psi\rangle = \frac{1}{i\hbar} \hat{H} |\psi\rangle \quad (4)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \langle\psi| = -\frac{1}{i\hbar} \langle\psi| \hat{H} \quad (5)$$

Then, substituting back into equation (2), we get

$$= i\hbar \left( \frac{1}{i\hbar} \hat{H} |\psi\rangle\langle\psi| - \frac{1}{i\hbar} |\psi\rangle\langle\psi| \hat{H} \right) \quad (6)$$

$$= \hat{H} |\psi\rangle\langle\psi| - |\psi\rangle\langle\psi| \hat{H} \quad (7)$$

$$= [H, |\psi\rangle\langle\psi|] \quad (8)$$

$$= [H, \rho] \quad (9)$$

And we are done.