

# statemech density operators

seth iwan

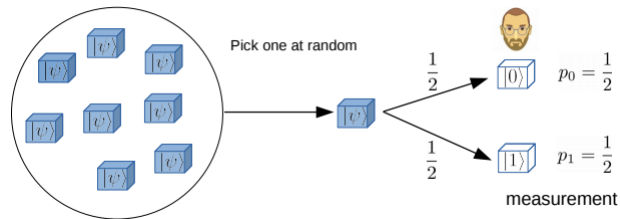
January 2020

## 1 problem 1

what are the probabilities of measuring  $|\pm\rangle$  for these three states

$$|\pm\rangle = |0\rangle \pm |1\rangle \quad (1)$$

case 1:



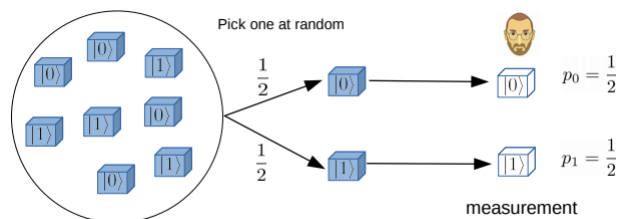
solution:

$$\rho = |\langle \pm | \psi \rangle|^2 = |(\langle 0 | \pm \langle 1 |) * \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|0\rangle + |1\rangle)|^2 \quad (2)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \pm \frac{1}{2} \quad (3)$$

so the probability to measure  $|+\rangle$  is 1 while the probability to measure  $|-\rangle$  is zero

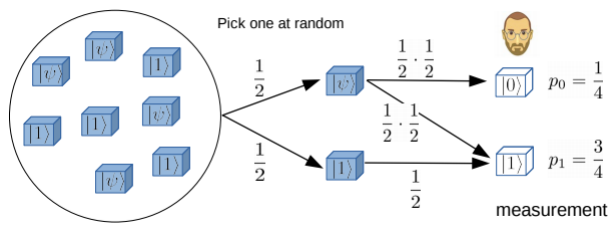
case 2:



**solution:**

since the state are either  $|0\rangle$  or  $|1\rangle$  there is 0 probability to be in  $|\pm\rangle$  which is a summation of those two states

**case 3:**



**solution:**

$$\rho_{|+\rangle} = |\langle +|\psi\rangle|^2 = 1$$

$$\rho_{|-\rangle} = |\langle -|\psi\rangle|^2 = 0$$

but  $|\psi\rangle$  has  $1/2$  chance of being measured, therefore  $|+\rangle$  has  $1/2$  chance of being measured and  $|-\rangle$  has zero chance of being measured.

**question: a system is in a pure state  $|\Psi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}|0\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}|1\rangle$  . find the density matrix in  $|0\rangle$  and  $|1\rangle$**

**solution:** since it is a pure state the density operator is just the outer product of  $|\Psi\rangle$

$$\rho = \frac{1}{2} (|0\rangle\langle 0| + |0\rangle\langle 1| + |1\rangle\langle 0| + |1\rangle\langle 1|) \quad (4)$$

to get this in matrix formation in the basis  $|0\rangle$  and  $|1\rangle$  we do  $\rho = \sum_i \sum_j |\psi_i\rangle\langle\psi_i| \rho |\psi_j\rangle\langle\psi_j|$  . so the density matrix is

$$\frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (5)$$

**2 problem: show that the purity is less than one, that is  $\text{tr}\rho^2 < 1$**

here  $\rho = P_1 |\Psi_1\rangle\langle\Psi_1| + P_2 |\Psi_2\rangle\langle\Psi_2|$   
 so  $\rho^2 = P_1^2 |\Psi_1\rangle\langle\Psi_1| |\Psi_1\rangle\langle\Psi_1| + P_1 P_2 |\Psi_1\rangle\langle\Psi_1| |\Psi_2\rangle\langle\Psi_2| + P_2 P_1 |\Psi_2\rangle\langle\Psi_2| |\Psi_1\rangle\langle\Psi_1| + P_2^2 |\Psi_2\rangle\langle\Psi_2| |\Psi_2\rangle\langle\Psi_2|$

$$\rho^2 = P_1^2 |\Psi_1\rangle\langle\Psi_1| + P_1 P_2 |\Psi_1\rangle\langle\Psi_1| |\Psi_2\rangle\langle\Psi_2| + P_2 P_1 |\Psi_2\rangle\langle\Psi_2| |\Psi_1\rangle\langle\Psi_1| + P_2^2 |\Psi_2\rangle\langle\Psi_2| \quad (6)$$

$$\text{tr}(\rho^2) = \langle\Psi_1|\rho^2|\Psi_1\rangle + \langle\Psi_2|\rho^2|\Psi_2\rangle \quad (7)$$

since  $\langle\Psi_1|\Psi_2\rangle = 0$

$$\text{tr}(\rho^2) = P_1^2 + 0 + 0 + 0 + 0 + 0 + 0 + P_2^2$$

since  $P_1 + P_2 = 1$  the trace of  $\rho^2$  is less than one

**3 show that if the initial state is pure, the system remains in pure state all time. Similarly, if the initial state is mixed, it remains in mixed state all time**