

## Quantum Liouville Equation

We have seen:  $\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = -\{\rho, H\} = -\sum_{j\alpha} \left( \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial q_{j\alpha}} \frac{\partial H}{\partial p_{j\alpha}} - \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial p_{j\alpha}} \frac{\partial H}{\partial q_{j\alpha}} \right)$

$\rho(p^{3N}, q^{3N})$  is the probability that the system is found in the state  $p^{3N}, q^{3N}$

What about quantum mechanics?

States accessible to the system  $|\psi_j\rangle$

Probabilities  $p_j$ ;  $\sum_j p_j = 1$

Operator  $\hat{A}$ :  $\langle \hat{A} \rangle = \sum_j p_j \langle \psi_j | \hat{A} | \psi_j \rangle$

We encode all information about the system in the density matrix  $\hat{\rho}$   
operator

$$\hat{\rho} = \sum_j p_j |\psi_j\rangle \langle \psi_j|$$

Then:  $\langle \hat{A} \rangle = \text{Tr}(\hat{\rho} \hat{A}) = \sum_n \langle \chi_n | \hat{\rho} \hat{A} | \chi_n \rangle$

$\{|\chi_n\rangle\}$  is an orthonormal basis

$$\rightarrow \langle \chi_n | \chi_m \rangle = \delta_{nm}$$

Proof ①  $\sum_n |x_n\rangle\langle x_n| = 1$ .

Consider  $|\psi\rangle = \sum_m c_m |x_m\rangle$

$$\sum_n |x_n\rangle\langle x_n| \underbrace{\left( \sum_m c_m |x_m\rangle \right)}_{\delta_{nm}} = \sum_n c_n |x_n\rangle = |\psi\rangle$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Tr}(\hat{\rho} \hat{A}) &= \sum_n \langle x_n | \underbrace{\sum_j p_j |\psi_j\rangle\langle\psi_j|}_{\hat{\rho}} \hat{A} | x_n \rangle \\ &= \sum_j p_j \underbrace{\sum_n \langle\psi_j | \hat{A} | x_n \rangle \langle x_n | \psi_j \rangle}_1 \\ &= \sum_j p_j \langle\psi_j | \hat{A} | \psi_j \rangle \quad \underline{\text{qed}} \end{aligned}$$

$\hat{\rho}$  contains all the information that we may want to know about the system.

$\Rightarrow \hat{\rho}$  is sufficient for calculating outcomes of experiments

Time evolution:

$$\frac{\partial \hat{\rho}}{\partial t} = \sum_j p_j \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (|\psi_j\rangle\langle\psi_j|) + |\psi_j\rangle \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \langle\psi_j| \right]$$

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} |\psi_j\rangle = \hat{H} |\psi_j\rangle \quad ; \quad -i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \langle\psi_j| = \langle\psi_j| \hat{H}$$

$$\frac{\partial \hat{\rho}}{\partial t} = \sum_j p_j \frac{1}{i\hbar} [\hat{H} |\psi_j\rangle \langle \psi_j| - |\psi_j\rangle \langle \psi_j| \hat{H}] =$$

$$\frac{1}{i\hbar} (\hat{H} \hat{\rho} - \hat{\rho} \hat{H}) = \frac{-1}{i\hbar} [\hat{\rho}, \hat{H}].$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho_{\alpha}}{\partial t} = - \{ \rho_{\alpha}, H_{\alpha} \}$$

+

$$|0\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad |1\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$p_0 = p_1 = 1/2$$

$$\hat{\rho} = \frac{1}{2} |0\rangle \langle 0| + \frac{1}{2} |1\rangle \langle 1| = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} =$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{Properties of } \hat{\rho}: \text{Tr } \hat{\rho} = 1.$$

$$\text{For a pure state: } P_{\psi} = 0$$

$$\hat{\rho} = |\psi\rangle \langle \psi|; \quad \hat{\rho}^2 = \hat{\rho}.$$