

# Continuous Measurements and Feedback Control of a Quantum Harmonic Oscillator

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# 1 Introduction

[1]

## 1.1 Open Quantum Systems

### 1.1.1 Lindblad Master Equation

## 1.2 Continuous Measurements

## 1.3 Feedback Control

## 1.4 Wigner Function

# 2 Method

# 3 Result

# 4 Discussion

## References

- [1] B. Annby-Andersson, *Continuous measurements of small systems: Feedback control, thermodynamics, entanglement*. Doctoral thesis (compilation), Lund University, 4 2024.

## A Appendix

## B EOM Calculation

Consider a quantum harmonic oscillator described by the Hamiltonian

$$\hat{H} = \hbar\omega(\hat{a}^\dagger\hat{a} + 1/2). \quad (1)$$

Consider also that the quantum harmonic oscillator is subject to a temperature bath and is continuously measured. The system then evolves according to the master equation

$$\partial_t \hat{\rho} = -\frac{i}{\hbar}[\hat{H}, \hat{\rho}] + \gamma(\bar{n} + 1)\mathcal{D}[\hat{a}]\hat{\rho} + \gamma\bar{n}\mathcal{D}[\hat{a}^\dagger]\hat{\rho} + \lambda\mathcal{D}[\hat{A}]\hat{\rho} \quad (2)$$

where  $\gamma$  is the damping rate,  $\bar{n}$  is the thermal occupancy defined as

$$\bar{n} = \frac{1}{e^{\hbar\omega/k_B T} - 1}, \quad (3)$$

$\lambda$  is the measurement rate,  $\hat{A}$  is the measurement operator, and  $\mathcal{D}[\hat{O}]$  is the Lindblad super operator defined as

$$\mathcal{D}[\hat{O}]\hat{\rho} = \hat{O}\hat{\rho}\hat{O}^\dagger - \frac{1}{2}\{\hat{O}^\dagger\hat{O}, \hat{\rho}\}. \quad (4)$$

Then we also have the quadrature operators defined as

$$\hat{x} = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2m\omega}}(\hat{a} + \hat{a}^\dagger), \quad \hat{p} = i\sqrt{\frac{m\omega\hbar}{2}}(\hat{a} - \hat{a}^\dagger). \quad (5)$$

We want to find the equations of motion when measuring the position quadrature

$$\partial_t \langle \hat{x}^2 \rangle = \text{tr}(\hat{x}^2 \partial_t \hat{\rho}) \quad (6)$$

$$\partial_t \langle \hat{p}^2 \rangle = \text{tr}(\hat{p}^2 \partial_t \hat{\rho}) \quad (7)$$

$$\partial_t \langle \{\hat{x}, \hat{p}\} \rangle = \text{tr}(\{\hat{x}, \hat{p}\} \partial_t \hat{\rho}). \quad (8)$$

We start by defining the Liouvillian super operator

$$\mathcal{L}\hat{\rho} = -\frac{i}{\hbar}[\hat{H}, \hat{\rho}] + \gamma(\bar{n} + 1)\mathcal{D}[\hat{a}]\hat{\rho} + \gamma\bar{n}\mathcal{D}[\hat{a}^\dagger]\hat{\rho} \quad (9)$$

which turns the master equation into

$$\partial_t \hat{\rho} = \mathcal{L} \hat{\rho} + \lambda \mathcal{D}[\hat{x}] \hat{\rho}. \quad (10)$$

### B.1 Solving for $\partial_t \langle \hat{x}^2 \rangle$

We can write Eq. (6) as

$$\partial_t \langle \hat{x}^2 \rangle = \text{tr}(\hat{x}^2 \mathcal{L} \hat{\rho}) + \text{tr}(\hat{x}^2 \lambda \mathcal{D}[\hat{x}] \hat{\rho}) \quad (11)$$

and then rewriting the left term using the creation and annihilation operators we get

$$\text{tr}(\hat{x}^2 \mathcal{L} \hat{\rho}) = \frac{\hbar}{2m\omega} \text{tr}\left((\hat{a}^2 + (\hat{a}^\dagger)^2 + \hat{a}\hat{a}^\dagger + \hat{a}^\dagger\hat{a}) \mathcal{L} \hat{\rho}\right) \quad (12)$$

$$= \frac{\hbar}{2m\omega} \left[ \text{tr}(\hat{a}^2 \mathcal{L} \hat{\rho}) + \text{tr}((\hat{a}^\dagger)^2 \mathcal{L} \hat{\rho}) + \text{tr}(\hat{a}\hat{a}^\dagger \mathcal{L} \hat{\rho}) + \text{tr}(\hat{a}^\dagger\hat{a} \mathcal{L} \hat{\rho}) \right] \quad (13)$$

Solving these separately

$$\text{tr}(\hat{a}^2 \mathcal{L} \hat{\rho}) = -\frac{i}{\hbar} \text{tr}\left(\hat{a}^2 [\hat{H}, \hat{\rho}]\right) + \gamma(\bar{n} + 1) \text{tr}(\hat{a}^2 \mathcal{D}[\hat{a}] \hat{\rho}) + \gamma\bar{n} \text{tr}(\hat{a}^2 \mathcal{D}[\hat{a}^\dagger] \hat{\rho}) \quad (14)$$

$$= -i\omega \text{tr}(\hat{a}^2 \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} \hat{\rho}) + i\omega \text{tr}(\hat{a}^2 \hat{\rho} \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a}) \quad (15)$$

$$+ \gamma(\bar{n} + 1) \text{tr}(\hat{a}^3 \hat{\rho} \hat{a}^\dagger) - \frac{\gamma(\bar{n} + 1)}{2} \text{tr}(\hat{a}^2 \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} \hat{\rho}) - \frac{\gamma(\bar{n} + 1)}{2} \text{tr}(\hat{a}^2 \hat{\rho} \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a}) \quad (16)$$

$$+ \gamma\bar{n} \text{tr}(\hat{a}^2 \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{\rho} \hat{a}) - \frac{\gamma\bar{n}}{2} \text{tr}(\hat{a}^3 \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{\rho}) - \frac{\gamma\bar{n}}{2} \text{tr}(\hat{a}^2 \hat{\rho} \hat{a} \hat{a}^\dagger) \quad (17)$$

Using cyclic permutations of the trace and combining terms we get

$$\text{tr}(\hat{a}^2 \mathcal{L} \hat{\rho}) = i\omega \text{tr}\left([\hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a}, \hat{a}^2] \hat{\rho}\right) + \frac{\gamma(\bar{n} + 1)}{2} \text{tr}\left([\hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a}, \hat{a}^2] \hat{\rho}\right) + \frac{\gamma\bar{n}}{2} \text{tr}\left([\hat{a}^2, \hat{a} \hat{a}^\dagger] \hat{\rho}\right) \quad (18)$$

The commutators are

$$[\hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a}, \hat{a}^2] = [\hat{a}^\dagger, \hat{a}^2] \hat{a} = \hat{a} [\hat{a}^\dagger, \hat{a}] \hat{a} + [\hat{a}^\dagger, \hat{a}] \hat{a}^2 = -2\hat{a}^2 \quad (19)$$

$$[\hat{a}^2, \hat{a} \hat{a}^\dagger] = \hat{a} [\hat{a}^2, \hat{a}^\dagger] = \hat{a}^2 [\hat{a}, \hat{a}^\dagger] + \hat{a} [\hat{a}, \hat{a}^\dagger] \hat{a} = 2\hat{a}^2 \quad (20)$$

Thus

$$\text{tr}(\hat{a}^2 \mathcal{L} \hat{\rho}) = -2i\omega \text{tr}(\hat{a}^2 \hat{\rho}) - \gamma(\bar{n} + 1) \text{tr}(\hat{a}^2 \hat{\rho}) + \gamma\bar{n} \text{tr}(\hat{a}^2 \hat{\rho}) = -(\gamma + 2i\omega) \text{tr}(\hat{a}^2 \hat{\rho}) \quad (21)$$

$$= -(\gamma + 2i\omega) \langle \hat{a}^2 \rangle. \quad (22)$$

By taking the hermition conjugate of the above we get

$$\text{tr}\left((\hat{a}^\dagger)^2 \mathcal{L}\hat{\rho}\right) = (\gamma - 2i\omega) \text{tr}\left((\hat{a}^\dagger)^2 \hat{\rho}\right) = -(\gamma - 2i\omega) \left\langle (\hat{a}^\dagger)^2 \right\rangle. \quad (23)$$

Now we do the same for  $\text{tr}(\hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} \mathcal{L}\hat{\rho})$ , so

$$\text{tr}\left(\hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} \mathcal{L}\hat{\rho}\right) = -\frac{i}{\hbar} \text{tr}\left(\hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} [\hat{H}, \hat{\rho}]\right) + \gamma(\bar{n} + 1) \text{tr}\left(\hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} \mathcal{D}[\hat{a}]\hat{\rho}\right) + \gamma\bar{n} \text{tr}\left(\hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} \mathcal{D}[\hat{a}^\dagger]\hat{\rho}\right) \quad (24)$$

$$= -i\omega \text{tr}\left(\hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} \hat{\rho}\right) + i\omega \text{tr}\left(\hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} \hat{\rho} \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a}\right) \quad (25)$$

$$+ \gamma(\bar{n} + 1) \text{tr}\left(\hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a}^2 \hat{\rho} \hat{a}^\dagger\right) - \frac{\gamma(\bar{n} + 1)}{2} \text{tr}\left(\hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} \hat{\rho}\right) - \frac{\gamma(\bar{n} + 1)}{2} \text{tr}\left(\hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} \hat{\rho} \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a}\right) \quad (26)$$

$$+ \gamma\bar{n} \text{tr}\left(\hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{\rho} \hat{a}\right) - \frac{\gamma\bar{n}}{2} \text{tr}\left(\hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a}^2 \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{\rho}\right) - \frac{\gamma\bar{n}}{2} \text{tr}\left(\hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} \hat{\rho} \hat{a} \hat{a}^\dagger\right) \quad (27)$$

using cyclic permutations of the trace and combining terms we get

$$\text{tr}\left(\hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} \mathcal{L}\hat{\rho}\right) = i\omega \text{tr}\left([\hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a}, \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a}]\hat{\rho}\right) + \gamma(\bar{n} + 1) \text{tr}\left((\hat{a}^\dagger)^2 \hat{a}^2 \hat{\rho}\right) - \gamma(\bar{n} + 1) \text{tr}\left(\hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} \hat{\rho}\right) \quad (28)$$

$$+ \gamma\bar{n} \text{tr}\left(\hat{a} \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{\rho}\right) - \frac{\gamma\bar{n}}{2} \text{tr}\left(\hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a}^2 \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{\rho}\right) - \frac{\gamma\bar{n}}{2} \text{tr}\left(\hat{a} (\hat{a}^\dagger)^2 \hat{a} \hat{\rho}\right) \quad (29)$$

Commuting to simplify we get

$$\text{tr}\left(\hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} \mathcal{L}\hat{\rho}\right) = -\gamma(\bar{n} + 1) \text{tr}\left(\hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} \hat{\rho}\right) - \gamma\bar{n} \text{tr}\left([\hat{a} \hat{a}^\dagger, \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a}]\hat{\rho}\right) + \gamma\bar{n} \text{tr}\left(\hat{a} \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{\rho}\right) \quad (30)$$

The commutator is equal to 0, and thus we get

$$\text{tr}\left(\hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} \mathcal{L}\hat{\rho}\right) = -\gamma(\bar{n} + 1) \text{tr}\left(\hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} \hat{\rho}\right) + \gamma\bar{n} + \gamma\bar{n} \text{tr}\left(\hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} \hat{\rho}\right) = -\gamma \text{tr}\left(\hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} \hat{\rho}\right) + \gamma\bar{n} = -\gamma \left\langle \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} \right\rangle + \gamma\bar{n}. \quad (31)$$

Similarly we can find that

$$\text{tr}\left(\hat{a} \hat{a}^\dagger \mathcal{L}\hat{\rho}\right) = -\gamma \text{tr}\left(\hat{a} \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{\rho}\right) + \gamma(\bar{n} + 1) = -\gamma \left\langle \hat{a} \hat{a}^\dagger \right\rangle + \gamma(\bar{n} + 1). \quad (32)$$

Then since  $\hat{x}^2$  commutes with  $\hat{x}$  (the measurement operator) we can write Eq. (11) the equation



of motion

$$\partial_t \langle \hat{x}^2 \rangle = \text{tr}(\hat{x}^2 \mathcal{L} \hat{\rho}) \quad (33)$$

$$= \frac{\hbar}{2m\omega} \left( -(\gamma + 2i\omega) \langle \hat{a}^2 \rangle - (\gamma - 2i\omega) \langle (\hat{a}^\dagger)^2 \rangle - \gamma \langle \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} \rangle + \gamma \bar{n} - \gamma \langle \hat{a} \hat{a}^\dagger \rangle + \gamma(\bar{n} + 1) \right) \quad (34)$$

$$= -\gamma \frac{\hbar}{2m\omega} \left( \langle \hat{a}^2 \rangle + \langle (\hat{a}^\dagger)^2 \rangle + \langle \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} \rangle + \langle \hat{a} \hat{a}^\dagger \rangle \right) + \frac{i\hbar}{m} \left( \langle (\hat{a}^\dagger)^2 \rangle - \langle \hat{a}^2 \rangle \right) + \frac{\gamma\hbar}{m\omega} (\bar{n} + 1/2) \quad (35)$$

Since we have

$$\{\hat{x}, \hat{p}\} = i\hbar((\hat{a}^\dagger)^2 - \hat{a}^2) \quad (36)$$

We can write the equation of motion as

$$\partial_t \langle \hat{x}^2 \rangle = -\gamma \langle \hat{x}^2 \rangle + \frac{1}{m} \langle \{\hat{x}, \hat{p}\} \rangle + \frac{\gamma\hbar}{m\omega} (\bar{n} + 1/2) \quad (37)$$

## B.2 Solving for $\partial_t \langle \hat{p}^2 \rangle$

Writing Eq. (7) as

$$\partial_t \langle \hat{p}^2 \rangle = \text{tr}(\hat{p}^2 \mathcal{L} \hat{\rho}) + \text{tr}(\hat{p}^2 \lambda \mathcal{D}[\hat{x}] \hat{\rho}) \quad (38)$$

Rewriting the left terms using  $\hat{a}, \hat{a}^\dagger$  we get

$$\text{tr}(\hat{p}^2 \mathcal{L} \hat{\rho}) = -\frac{m\omega\hbar}{2} \text{tr} \left( (\hat{a}^2 + (\hat{a}^\dagger)^2 - \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} - \hat{a} \hat{a}^\dagger) \mathcal{L} \hat{\rho} \right) \quad (39)$$

$$= -\frac{m\omega\hbar}{2} \left( \text{tr}(\hat{a}^2 \mathcal{L} \hat{\rho}) + \text{tr}((\hat{a}^\dagger)^2 \mathcal{L} \hat{\rho}) - \text{tr}(\hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} \mathcal{L} \hat{\rho}) - \text{tr}(\hat{a} \hat{a}^\dagger \mathcal{L} \hat{\rho}) \right) \quad (40)$$

We have solved for these before, so we can write

$$\text{tr}(\hat{p}^2 \mathcal{L} \hat{\rho}) = -\frac{m\omega\hbar}{2} \left( -(\gamma + 2i\omega) \langle \hat{a}^2 \rangle - (\gamma - 2i\omega) \langle (\hat{a}^\dagger)^2 \rangle + \gamma \langle \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} \rangle - \gamma \bar{n} + \gamma \langle \hat{a} \hat{a}^\dagger \rangle - \gamma(\bar{n} + 1) \right) \quad (41)$$

$$= -\gamma \langle \hat{p}^2 \rangle + mi\omega^2 \hbar \left( \langle \hat{a}^2 \rangle - \langle (\hat{a}^\dagger)^2 \rangle \right) + \gamma m\omega \hbar (\bar{n} + 1/2) \quad (42)$$

$$= -\gamma \langle \hat{p}^2 \rangle - m\omega^2 \langle \{\hat{x}, \hat{p}\} \rangle + \gamma m\omega \hbar (\bar{n} + 1/2) \quad (43)$$

Solving the measurement term

$$\text{tr}(\hat{p}^2 \lambda \mathcal{D}[\hat{x}] \hat{\rho}) = \lambda \left( \text{tr}(\hat{p}^2 \hat{x} \hat{\rho}) - \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(\hat{p}^2 \hat{x}^2 \hat{\rho}) - \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(\hat{p}^2 \hat{\rho} \hat{x}^2) \right) \quad (44)$$

$$= \lambda \left( \text{tr}(\hat{x} \hat{p}^2 \hat{x} \hat{\rho}) - \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(\hat{p}^2 \hat{x}^2 \hat{\rho}) - \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(\hat{x}^2 \hat{p}^2 \hat{\rho}) \right) \quad (45)$$

Commuting the operators

$$\hat{x} \hat{p}^2 \hat{x} = \frac{1}{2} (\hat{p} \hat{x} + i\hbar) \hat{p} \hat{x} + \frac{1}{2} \hat{x} \hat{p} (\hat{x} \hat{p} - i\hbar) = \frac{1}{2} \hat{p} \hat{x} \hat{p} \hat{x} + \frac{1}{2} \hat{x} \hat{p} \hat{x} \hat{p} + \frac{i\hbar}{2} [\hat{p}, \hat{x}] \quad (46)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \hat{p} \hat{x} \hat{p} \hat{x} + \frac{1}{2} \hat{x} \hat{p} \hat{x} \hat{p} + \frac{\hbar^2}{2} \quad (47)$$

$$\hat{p}^2 \hat{x}^2 = \hat{p} (\hat{x} \hat{p} - i\hbar) \hat{x} = \hat{p} \hat{x} \hat{p} \hat{x} - i\hbar \hat{p} \hat{x} \quad (48)$$

$$\hat{x}^2 \hat{p}^2 = \hat{x} (\hat{p} \hat{x} + i\hbar) \hat{p} = \hat{x} \hat{p} \hat{x} \hat{p} + i\hbar \hat{x} \hat{p} \quad (49)$$

This gives

$$\text{tr}(\hat{p}^2 \lambda \mathcal{D}[\hat{x}] \hat{\rho}) = \lambda \left( \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(\hat{p} \hat{x} \hat{p} \hat{x} \hat{\rho}) + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(\hat{x} \hat{p} \hat{x} \hat{p} \hat{\rho}) + \frac{\hbar^2}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(\hat{p} \hat{x} \hat{p} \hat{x} \hat{\rho}) - \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(\hat{x} \hat{p} \hat{x} \hat{p} \hat{\rho}) + \frac{i\hbar}{2} \text{tr}([\hat{p}, \hat{x}]) \right) \quad (50)$$

$$= \frac{\lambda \hbar^2}{2} + \frac{\lambda i\hbar}{2} \text{tr}([\hat{p}, \hat{x}]) = \lambda \hbar^2 \quad (51)$$

The final equation of motion then becomes

$$\partial_t \langle \hat{p}^2 \rangle = -\gamma \langle \hat{p}^2 \rangle - m\omega^2 \langle \{\hat{x}, \hat{p}\} \rangle + \gamma m\omega \hbar (\bar{n} + 1/2) + \lambda \hbar^2 \quad (52)$$

### B.3 Solving for $\partial_t \langle \{\hat{x}, \hat{p}\} \rangle$

Writing Eq. (8) as

$$\partial_t \langle \{\hat{x}, \hat{p}\} \rangle = \text{tr}(\{\hat{x}, \hat{p}\} \mathcal{L} \hat{\rho}) + \text{tr}(\{\hat{x}, \hat{p}\} \lambda \mathcal{D}[\hat{x}] \hat{\rho}) \quad (53)$$

Rewriting the left term as

$$\text{tr}(\{\hat{x}, \hat{p}\} \mathcal{L} \hat{\rho}) = i\hbar \text{tr}((\hat{a}^2 - (\hat{a}^\dagger)^2) \mathcal{L} \hat{\rho}) = i\hbar \text{tr}(\hat{a}^2 \mathcal{L} \hat{\rho}) - i\hbar \text{tr}((\hat{a}^\dagger)^2 \mathcal{L} \hat{\rho}) \quad (54)$$

We have calculated these terms before, so we can write

$$\text{tr}(\{\hat{x}, \hat{p}\} \mathcal{L} \hat{\rho}) = -i\hbar \left( (\gamma + 2i\omega) \langle \hat{a}^2 \rangle - (\gamma - 2i\omega) \langle (\hat{a}^\dagger)^2 \rangle \right) \quad (55)$$

$$= -\gamma i\hbar \left( \langle \hat{a}^2 \rangle - \langle (\hat{a}^\dagger)^2 \rangle \right) + 2\hbar\omega \left( \langle \hat{a}^2 \rangle + \langle (\hat{a}^\dagger)^2 \rangle \right) \quad (56)$$

We also have that

$$\hat{a}^2 + (\hat{a}^\dagger)^2 = \frac{m\omega}{\hbar} \hat{x}^2 - \frac{1}{m\omega\hbar} \hat{p}^2 \quad (57)$$

Thus we get

$$\text{tr}(\{\hat{x}, \hat{p}\} \mathcal{L} \hat{\rho}) = -\gamma \langle \{\hat{x}, \hat{p}\} \rangle + 2m\omega^2 \langle \hat{x}^2 \rangle - \frac{2}{m} \langle \hat{p}^2 \rangle \quad (58)$$

Solving for the measurement term

$$\lambda \text{tr}(\{\hat{x}, \hat{p}\} \mathcal{D}[\hat{x}] \hat{\rho}) = \frac{\lambda}{2} \left( \text{tr}([\hat{x}^2, \hat{p}\hat{x}] \hat{\rho}) + \text{tr}([\hat{x}\hat{p}, \hat{x}^2]) \right) \quad (59)$$

Solving the commutators shows that this will become zero.

## B.4 Results

The final equations of motion are

$$\partial_t \langle \hat{x}^2 \rangle = -\gamma \langle \hat{x}^2 \rangle + \frac{1}{m} \langle \{\hat{x}, \hat{p}\} \rangle + \frac{\gamma\hbar}{m\omega} (\bar{n} + 1/2) \quad (60)$$

$$\partial_t \langle \hat{p}^2 \rangle = -\gamma \langle \hat{p}^2 \rangle - m\omega^2 \langle \{\hat{x}, \hat{p}\} \rangle + \gamma m\omega\hbar (\bar{n} + 1/2) + \lambda\hbar^2 \quad (61)$$

$$\partial_t \langle \{\hat{x}, \hat{p}\} \rangle = -\gamma \langle \{\hat{x}, \hat{p}\} \rangle + 2m\omega^2 \langle \hat{x}^2 \rangle - \frac{2}{m} \langle \hat{p}^2 \rangle \quad (62)$$