

1 Basic Principles

Degenerate spectral decomposition

$$F(\hat{A}) = \sum_i \sum_{j_i=1}^{d_i} F(A_i) |A_i, j_i\rangle \langle A_i, j_i|$$

provided $F(A_i)$ is well defined.

1.1 Tensor Product

Direct product $\mathcal{H}_A \otimes \mathcal{H}_B$ has basis

$$|i, I\rangle = |B_i\rangle \otimes |\tilde{B}_I\rangle \quad \langle i, I| = \langle B_i| \otimes \langle \tilde{B}_I|$$

Rule for combining tensor products of operators, bras, and kets:

$$(A \otimes B)(C \otimes D) = AC \otimes BC$$

rule: left stays left, right stays right

1.2 Trace and Partial trace

Trace of operator: $\text{Tr}(\hat{O}) = \sum_i \langle B_i | \hat{O} | B_i \rangle$

Properties:

- cyclic: $\text{Tr}(\hat{A}\hat{B}\hat{C}) = \text{Tr}(\hat{C}\hat{A}\hat{B}) = \text{Tr}(\hat{B}\hat{C}\hat{A})$
- linear: $\text{Tr}(a\hat{A} + b\hat{B}) = a\text{Tr}(\hat{A}) + b\text{Tr}(\hat{B})$
- trace of unity operator: $\text{Tr}(\hat{1}) = \dim(\mathcal{H})$

Trace over $\mathcal{H}_A \otimes \mathcal{H}_B$ is

$$\text{Tr}_{\mathcal{H}_A \otimes \mathcal{H}_B} = \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{H}_A} \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{H}_B} = \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{H}_B} \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{H}_A}$$

with partial traces

$$\text{Tr}_{\mathcal{H}_B}(\hat{O}) = \sum_K \langle \tilde{B}_K | \hat{O} | \tilde{B}_K \rangle = \hat{O}_A^{\text{reduced}}$$

with reduced operator acting on \mathcal{H}_A with matrix elements

$$\langle i | \hat{O}_A^{\text{red}} | j \rangle = \sum_K \langle i, K | \hat{O} | j, K \rangle$$

- if $\hat{O} = \hat{O}_A \otimes \hat{1}_B$ then $\text{Tr}(\hat{O}) = \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{H}_A}(\hat{O}_A)$
- reduced density operator $\hat{\rho}_A = \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{H}_B}(\hat{\rho})$ describes probabilities in \mathcal{H}_A

hint: only orthogonal terms survive:

$$\text{Tr}_{\mathcal{H}_A \otimes \mathcal{H}_B} |abc\rangle \langle a'b'c'| = |a\rangle \langle a'| \underbrace{\langle b'c' | bc \rangle}_{\delta_{b'b} \delta_{c'c}}$$

pitfall: have to factor out products:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{H}_B} [(|ab\rangle + \gamma |cd\rangle)(\langle ab| + \gamma^* \langle cd|)] \\ = |a\rangle \langle a| + |\gamma|^2 |c\rangle \langle c| \\ \neq [(|a\rangle + \gamma |c\rangle)(\langle a| + \gamma^* \langle c|)] \text{Tr}(\dots) \end{aligned}$$

1.3 Stone's Theorem

Every continuous symmetry $a \rightarrow a + \Delta a$ (automorphism) is enacted by a unitary operator

$$\hat{U}(\Delta a) = e^{i\Delta \hat{A}}$$

where the generator \hat{A} is Hermitian and time-independent.

$a = t$: time translation: $\hat{A} = -\hat{H}/\hbar$

- differentiating gives TDSE

$a = x$: spatial translation: $\hat{A} = -\hat{p}_x/\hbar$

- expanding \hat{x}' to $O(\Delta x)$ gives CCR: $[\hat{x}, \hat{p}_x] = i\hbar$

$a = \theta$: rotation: $\hat{A} = \hat{L}\theta/\hbar, \hat{A} = \hat{L}/\hbar$

1.4 Automorphisms

Unitary transform between representations

$$|\psi'\rangle = \hat{X} |\psi\rangle, \quad \hat{O}' = \hat{X} \hat{O} \hat{X}^\dagger$$

- preserves $\langle A | \hat{O} | B \rangle$ and $\hat{A}\hat{B} = \hat{C}$

$$\langle A | X^\dagger X \hat{O} X^\dagger X | B \rangle$$

1.5 Schrödinger picture

Unitary time evolution operator evolves states:

$$|\psi(t)\rangle_S = \hat{U}(t) |\psi(0)\rangle, \quad \hat{U}(t) = e^{-i\hat{H}_S t/\hbar}$$

Equations of motion:

$$\underbrace{i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} |\psi(t)\rangle_S = \hat{H}_S |\psi(t)\rangle_S}_{\text{Schrödinger equation}^*}, \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \hat{A}_S = 0$$

1.6 Heisenberg picture

Automorphism $\hat{X} = \hat{U}^\dagger(t) = \exp(it\hat{H}_S/\hbar)$ gives:

$$\hat{O}_H(t) = \hat{U}^\dagger(t) \hat{O}_S \hat{U}(t)$$

preserving matrix elements

$$\langle A(t) | \hat{O} | B(t) \rangle_S = \langle A | \hat{U}^\dagger(t) \hat{O} \hat{U}(t) | B \rangle = \langle A | \hat{O}(t) | B \rangle_H$$

Equations of motion:

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} |\psi(t)\rangle_H = 0, \quad \underbrace{\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \hat{A}_H(t) = \frac{i}{\hbar} [\hat{H}_H, \hat{A}_H]}_{\text{Heisenberg equation of motion}}$$

1.7 Interacting (Dirac) picture

Interaction Hamiltonian: $\hat{H}_I = \hat{H}_I^0 + \hat{H}_I^1$

- operators evolve with \hat{H}_I^0 , states with \hat{H}_I^1

From (S), automorphism $\hat{X} = \exp(it\hat{H}_I^0/\hbar)$

$$\underbrace{i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} |\psi(t)\rangle_I = \hat{H}_I^1(t) |\psi(t)\rangle_I}_{\text{Schrödinger with } \hat{H}_I^1(t)}, \quad \underbrace{\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \hat{A}_I(t) = -\frac{i}{\hbar} [\hat{A}_I(t), \hat{H}_I^0(t)]}_{\text{Heisenberg with } \hat{H}_I^0(t)}$$

- Dirac reduces to Heisenberg when $\hat{H}_I^1 = 0$
- perturbation theory: $\hat{H}^0 \gg \hat{H}^1$: expand in powers of \hat{H}^1

2 Position and Momentum Rep

In the continuous case, projection operators are

$$\hat{P}_{x, x+\Delta x} = \int_x^{x+\Delta x} dx' |x'\rangle \langle x'|$$

- Wavefunction: $\psi(x) = \mathcal{A}(x|\psi) = \langle x|\psi\rangle$

Momentum eigenstates $\hat{p}|k\rangle = p|k\rangle = \hbar k|k\rangle$

- Completeness:

$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{dk}{2\pi} |k\rangle \langle k| = \hat{1}$$

- Orthonormality: $\langle k|k'\rangle = (2\pi)\delta(k-k')$
- Orthogonality to $|x\rangle$ and CCR:

$$\langle x|k_x\rangle = e^{ik_x x} = e^{ip_x x/\hbar}, \quad [\hat{x}, \hat{p}] = i\hbar$$

- in position basis: $\langle x|F(\hat{p}_x)|\psi\rangle = F(-i\hbar\partial_x)\psi(x)$

In polar coords, $|r, \phi\rangle = |x = r \cos \phi, y = r \sin \phi\rangle$,

$$(\text{completeness}) \quad \int_0^\infty dr \int_0^{2\pi} r d\phi |r, \phi\rangle \langle r, \phi| = \hat{1}$$

$$(\text{orthonormality}) \quad \langle r, \phi|r', \phi'\rangle = r^{-1}\delta(r-r')\delta(\phi-\phi')$$

In separable spherical coords $|r, \theta, \phi\rangle = |r\rangle \otimes |\theta, \phi\rangle$ have

$$(\text{completeness}) \quad \int_0^\infty dr \int r^2 d\Omega |r, \theta, \phi\rangle \langle r, \theta, \phi| = \hat{1}$$

$$\int_0^\infty dr r^2 |r\rangle \langle r| = \hat{1}_r \implies \langle r|r'\rangle = r^{-2}\delta r - r'$$

and the CCR become $[\hat{r}_i, \hat{p}_j] = i\hbar\delta_{ij}$

3 Emergence of Classicality I

3.1 Hilbert Space to Phase Space

Associate every operator $\hat{A} \in \mathcal{H}$ to classical phase space quantity

$$A_{cl}(x, p_x) = \langle x|\hat{A}|k_x\rangle \langle k_x|x\rangle$$

- Integral over p_x gives $\langle x|\hat{A}|x\rangle$
- Integral over x gives $\langle k_x|\hat{A}|k_x\rangle$
- Integral over x and p_x gives $\text{Tr}(\hat{A})$
- Invertible via $\hat{A} = \hat{1}_x \hat{A} \hat{1}_{k_x}$

Wigner-Weyl transform guarantees that A_c is real

4 Density Matrices

Pure state density operator

$$\hat{\rho} = |\psi\rangle \langle \psi|$$

- $\hat{\rho}$ is probability op.: $p(A_i) = |\langle A_i|\psi\rangle|^2 = \langle A_i|\hat{\rho}|A_i\rangle$
- expectation value: $\langle \psi|\hat{A}|\psi\rangle = \text{Tr}(\hat{A}\hat{\rho})$
- Satisfies $\text{Tr}(\hat{\rho}) = \text{Tr}(\hat{\rho}^2) = 1$

4.1 Mixed States

$$\hat{\rho} = \sum_J p_J |\psi_J\rangle \langle \psi_J|$$

- Satisfies $\text{Tr}(\hat{\rho}) = \sum_J p_J = 1$, but $\text{Tr}(\hat{\rho}^2) < 1$
- more mixed = less information about the system
- von Neumann entropy: $S = -\text{Tr}(\hat{\rho} \ln \hat{\rho})$ measures ignorance
 - mixed vs pure: compute $\text{Tr}(\hat{\rho}^2)$
- statistical (classical) prob. op.: p_J are eigenvalues of $\hat{\rho}$
- since $\hat{\rho}$ is composed of states $|\psi\rangle$, the time evolution is governed by how the states (not operators) evolve:

$$\hat{\rho}_S(t) = \hat{U}(t)\hat{\rho}_S(0)\hat{U}^\dagger(t), \quad \hat{\rho}_H = \hat{\rho}_S(0)$$

For degenerate states with the same probability, use spectral decomposition (e.g. for entropy)

$$F(\hat{\rho}) = \sum_i \sum_{j_i} F(p_i) |p_i, j_i\rangle \langle p_i, j_i|$$

For a thermal state (Boltzmann)

$$\hat{\rho} = \frac{e^{-\hat{H}/(kT)}}{\text{Tr}(\dots)}$$

4.2 Wigner Quasi-Probability Distribution

... is classical phase space version of density operator

$$W(x, p_x) = \rho_c$$

- normalised: phase space integral is $\text{Tr}(\hat{\rho}) = 1$
- $\hbar \rightarrow 0$: phase space prob. density

- probability to be in phase space volume V :

$$p_V = \int_V \frac{dx dp_x}{2\pi\hbar} W(x, p_x)$$

- expectation value of any function of \hat{x} or \hat{p}_x is

$$\langle F(\hat{x}, \hat{p}_x) \rangle = \text{Tr}(\hat{F}\hat{\rho}) = \int \frac{dx dp_x}{2\pi\hbar} F(x, p_x) W(x, p_x)$$

- quasi-probability density: W and p_V can become negative

4.3 Quantum Liouville equation*

From time evolution of $\hat{\rho}_S(t)$, can find

$$\frac{\partial W}{\partial t} = \frac{i}{\hbar} [\hat{\rho}_S(t), \hat{H}]_c$$

and to leading order in \hbar :

$$\frac{DW_0}{Dt} = \frac{\partial W_0}{\partial t} + \{W_0, H\} \approx 0 \quad (\text{Classical Liouville})$$

Quantum corrections vanish for $\partial^3 V(x)/\partial x^3 = 0$:

1. free particle: $V = \text{const.}$
2. constant external force: $V = -Fx$
3. harmonic oscillator: $V = \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2 x^2$

- W : Gaussian with $\Delta x \Delta p_x = \frac{\hbar}{2}$ & $\Delta x = \sqrt{\hbar/(2m\omega)}$

5 Uncertainty Principle

Cauchy-Schwarz:

$$\langle u|u \rangle \langle v|v \rangle \geq |\langle u|v \rangle|^2$$

- uncertainty = standard deviation ΔA with

$$\Delta A^2 = \langle \psi | (\hat{A} - \langle \hat{A} \rangle)^2 | \psi \rangle = \langle \hat{A}^2 \rangle - \langle \hat{A} \rangle^2$$

- generalised uncertainty principle

$$\Delta A \Delta B \geq \frac{1}{2} \left| \langle [\hat{A}, \hat{B}] \rangle \right|$$

5.1 Coherent States

Uncertainty is minimised for

$$1. R = \left\langle \underbrace{\{\Delta \hat{A}, \Delta \hat{B}\}}_{\text{Anti-commutator}} \right\rangle = 0$$

2. Cauchy-Schwarz is equality: $|u\rangle \propto |v\rangle$
 \Rightarrow states of minimum uncertainty

These are satisfied by coherent states which are eigenstates of

$$\underbrace{(\hat{A} + i\mu\hat{B})}_{\text{non-hermitian}} |\alpha\rangle = \alpha |\alpha\rangle$$

- For $\hat{A} = \hat{x}$, $\hat{B} = \hat{p}_x$, wavefunction $\langle x|\alpha\rangle$ is Gaussian

6 Entanglement and Mixed States

Entangled states are states that cannot be written as a direct product of two states.

- Even if $\hat{\rho}$ is pure state, reduced $\hat{\rho}_A$ is in general mixed.
 – to verify entanglement, show that $\text{Tr}(\rho_A^2) < 1$
- Factorisable states are not entangled: partial traces yield pure states in reduced Hilbert space.

Bell state (normalised, pure) of maximal entanglement

$$|\psi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|0, 0\rangle + |1, 1\rangle)$$

Entropy is defined as

$$S = -\text{Tr}(\hat{\rho} \ln \hat{\rho})$$

- Maximum entropy / entanglement states $\hat{\rho} = \hat{1}/\text{dim}(\mathcal{H})$

6.1 Maximal Qubit Entanglement

General qubit state:

$$|\psi\rangle = \frac{|0, 0\rangle + \alpha |0, 1\rangle + \beta |1, 0\rangle + \gamma |1, 1\rangle}{\sqrt{1 + |\alpha|^2 + |\beta|^2 + |\gamma|^2}}$$

1. partial trace over \mathcal{H}_B gives effective state in \mathcal{H}_A

- cyclic + orthonormality: partial trace picks out terms where second label is the same

2. find relation between constants in $\hat{\rho}_A$:

- symmetry $\mathcal{H}_A \leftrightarrow \mathcal{H}_B$: $|\alpha| = |\beta|$,
- symmetry $0 \leftrightarrow 1$: $|\gamma| = 1$
- maximal entropy: $\hat{\rho} = \frac{1}{2} \hat{1}_{\mathcal{H}_A}$

$$\frac{\beta + \gamma\alpha^*}{1 + |\alpha|^2} = 0$$

$$\therefore |\alpha| = |\beta| = \infty \text{ or } \beta = -\gamma\alpha^*, \text{ e.g. } \alpha = \beta = 0$$

3. Bell states are natural basis of maximally entangled states

$$|\psi_{1,2}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|0, 0\rangle \pm |1, 1\rangle)$$

$$|\psi_{3,4}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|0, 1\rangle \pm |1, 0\rangle)$$

- qualitatively: for each measurement A , outcome B is known

6.2 Tensor products of harmonic oscillators

- QHO ladder op. Hamiltonian: $\hat{H} = \hbar\omega(\underbrace{\hat{a}^\dagger\hat{a}}_{\text{number operator } \hat{N}} + \frac{1}{2})$

Derive thermal state / quantum Boltzmann:

1. product space $\hat{a}_+ = \hat{a} \otimes \hat{1}$, $\hat{a}_- = \hat{1} \otimes \hat{a}$
2. define pure state $|\psi\rangle = A \exp(\alpha \hat{a}_+^\dagger \hat{a}_-^\dagger) |0, 0\rangle$
 - normalisation: $A = \sqrt{1 - |\alpha|^2}$
3. partial trace $\hat{\rho}_+ = \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{H}_-}(\hat{\rho})$
 - define $|\alpha|^2 = \exp(-\ln(1/|\alpha|^2)) := \exp(-\frac{\hbar\omega}{kT})$

Entangled state is thermal from point of view of \mathcal{H}_+
WKB approx Path integral saddle points Quantum tunneling

7 General Theory of Measurement

Projection operator $\hat{P}_A = |A\rangle\langle A|$.
Born rule: probability of outcome A of measurement \hat{A} on pure state $|\psi\rangle$ is

$$p(A|\rho) = |\langle A|\psi\rangle|^2 = \text{Tr}(\hat{P}_A \hat{\rho} \hat{P}_A^\dagger)$$

State after measurement is

$$|\psi'\rangle = \frac{\hat{P}_A |\psi\rangle}{\|\hat{P}_A |\psi\rangle\|} \quad \hat{\rho}' = \frac{\hat{P}_A \hat{\rho} \hat{P}_A^\dagger}{\text{Tr}(\hat{P}_A \hat{\rho} \hat{P}_A^\dagger)}$$

For degenerate eigenstates, state after measurement is given by

$$|\psi'\rangle = \frac{\hat{P}_{A_i} |\psi\rangle}{\|\hat{P}_{A_i} |\psi\rangle\|}$$

with $\hat{P}_{A_i} = \sum_{q_i} |A_i, q_i\rangle\langle A_i, q_i|$.

7.1 Consecutive Measurements

For consecutive measurements, projection operators multiply:

$$A \text{ AND THEN } B : \hat{P}_{B \cap A} = \hat{P}_B \hat{P}_A$$

For chronological set of measurements A and then B and ... and then Z:

$$\hat{\rho}' = \frac{\hat{P}_Z \cdots \hat{P}_A \hat{\rho} \hat{P}_A^\dagger \cdots \hat{P}_Z^\dagger}{\text{Tr}(\cdots)}$$

- trace is same as upstairs to ensure $\text{Tr}(\rho') = 1$
- denominator trace is also the probability $p(Z \cap \cdots \cap A|\rho)$
- $p(B \cap A|\rho) \neq p(A \cap B|\rho)$ and Bayes' thm does not apply

7.2 Multiple Consistent Outcomes

If $\hat{P}_A \hat{P}_B = \hat{P}_B \hat{P}_A = 0$, projection operators add:

$$A \text{ OR } B : \hat{P}_{A \cup B} = \hat{P}_A + \hat{P}_B$$

Example: Measurement on d -degenerate eigenvalue A :

$$\hat{P} = \sum_{q=1}^d |A, q\rangle\langle A, q|$$

7.3 Two-Slit Experiment

Electron passing slit (A OR B) AND THEN measured at D :

$$p(D \cap (A \cup B)) = p(D \cap A) + p(D \cap B) + I_{D,AB}$$

with interference term $I_{D,AB} = \text{Tr}(\hat{P}_D \hat{P}_A \hat{\rho} \hat{P}_B^\dagger) + (A \leftrightarrow B)$
There is no third or higher order interference in QM (Wick's theorem?)

7.4 Measurements at different times

Schrödinger picture: $\hat{\rho}(t) = e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \hat{H}(t-t_0)} \hat{\rho}_0 e^{+\frac{i}{\hbar} \hat{H}(t-t_0)}$

- same as before but evolve state and thus $\hat{\rho}$ by $U(\Delta t)$ between each measurement
- probability is trace in denominator

Heisenberg picture:

- Absorb time evolution into projection operator:

$$\hat{P}_{A,B}(t) = e^{+\frac{i}{\hbar} \hat{H}(t-t_0)} \hat{P}_{A,B} e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \hat{H}(t-t_0)}$$

7.5 Quantum Zeno Effect

1. Prepare system in state $|\phi\rangle$ with $\hat{\rho} = \hat{P} = |\phi\rangle\langle\phi|$
2. survival probability p : still in state $|\phi\rangle$ after time t/N
3. repeat N times to find combined prob. p_N after time t
4. continuous measurement: $\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} p_N = 1$

Conclusion: continuously observed states evolve with $\hat{P} \hat{H} \hat{P}$ and remain within subspace defined by projection operator.

8 Angular Momentum

Infinitesimal rotation in $\text{SO}(2)$: $R[\theta] \approx \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -\theta \\ \theta & 1 \end{pmatrix} = 1 - i\theta\sigma_2$.

Find $\hat{U}(\theta)$ by considering infinitesimal θ :

1. require position operators transform as (sim for \hat{y})

$$\hat{U}(\theta) \hat{x} \hat{U}(\theta)^\dagger = \hat{x} \cos \theta - \hat{y} \sin \theta$$

2. look for soln of form $\hat{U}(\theta) \approx 1 + \frac{i}{\hbar} \hat{L} \theta + O(\theta^2)$
3. compare to find $\hat{L} = \hat{x} \hat{p}_y - \hat{y} \hat{p}_x$
4. standard argument: $\hat{U}[\theta] = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \hat{U}[\theta/N]^N = e^{i\theta \hat{L}/\hbar}$

8.1 Orbital Rotations

Action on position eigenkets

$$|x', y'\rangle = \hat{U}_L^\dagger(\theta) |x, y\rangle$$

Since $|x, y\rangle = \hat{U}_L^\dagger(2\pi) |x, y\rangle$ and wavefunction is continuous, require $\hat{U}_L(2\pi) = \hat{1}$:

- eigenvalues of \hat{L} are integers
- find $\langle r, \phi | \hat{L} | \psi \rangle$ in polar coordinates:

$$x = r \cos \phi \quad y = r \sin \phi$$

- eigenfn $\langle r, \phi | m \rangle = f(r) e^{im\phi}$ with eigenvalue $L = m\hbar$

8.2 Spin in 2D

$$\hat{U}_S(\theta) = e^{i\hat{S}\theta/\hbar}$$

- do not require $\hat{U}_S(2\pi) = \hat{1}$, only

$$\hat{U}_S(2\pi) |\psi\rangle = e^{i\alpha} |\psi\rangle$$

- eigenvalue equation: $S = (n + \frac{\alpha}{2\pi})\hbar$
 - $\alpha = 0$: boson
 - $\alpha = \pi$: fermion
 - else: ANYON

Total ang. mom.: $\hat{J} = \hat{L} + \hat{S} \implies \hat{U}_J = \hat{U}_S \hat{U}_L = \hat{U}_L \hat{U}_S$

Note that Pauli matrices obey $\hat{\sigma}_x^2 = \hat{\sigma}_y^2 = \hat{\sigma}_z^2 = \hat{1}$

Schwinger and Holstein-Primakoff representation

9 Electric and Magnetic Fields

10 Quantum Harmonic Oscillator

Ladder operators:

$$\hat{a} |n\rangle = \sqrt{n} |n-1\rangle, \quad \hat{a}^\dagger |n\rangle = \sqrt{n+1} |n+1\rangle$$

- number operator: $\hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a}$
- commutator: $[\hat{a}, \hat{a}^\dagger] = 1$

Position and momentum:

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

11 Hydrogen

For bound states, $E < 0$. This implies that there must be a maximum value of l .

12 Time-dep perturbation theory

13 Advanced topics

Spin statistics adiabatic approx Berry phase Aharonov-Bohm effect