

* executive summary of measurement in Q.M.

- 1) observation is richer than $Q(x,p)$ due to complementarity
it requires a Hermitian operator $\hat{Q}(x, \text{ind})$ on a state $|\psi(x)\rangle$
- 2) every observable has special "determinate states" $|\phi_n\rangle \rightarrow q_n$
these are eigenstates: $\hat{Q} |\phi_n\rangle = q_n |\phi_n\rangle$
- 3) any other state is a "superposition" of these (complex linear combo)
 c_n = "probability amplitude"; $|\psi\rangle$ is a complete set of amplitudes
- 4) observation is an irreversible projection - collapses the state
- 5) measurements with same eigenstates (commute) are compatible
- 6) otherwise "rotation" from one basis to another is unitary
involving projections (inner products) of each state.
- 7) Dirac notation treats these operations in a unified framework

* recall: determinate states ≠ superpositions

$$\begin{aligned}\langle Q \rangle &= \langle \psi | \hat{Q} | \psi \rangle = \langle \sum_m c_m \phi_m | \hat{Q} | \sum_n c_n \phi_n \rangle \\ &= \sum_n |c_n|^2 q_n \quad \text{where } \hat{Q} |\phi_n\rangle = q_n |\phi_n\rangle\end{aligned}$$

- compare with original $\langle Q \rangle = \int dx |\psi(x)|^2 Q(x)$
what are the " c_n " or " $\psi(x)$ "?
probability amplitude of "being at" q_n or x

$$\langle Q^2 \rangle = \langle \psi | Q^2 | \psi \rangle = \sum_n |c_n|^2 q_n^2$$

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta Q &= \langle Q^2 \rangle - \langle Q \rangle^2 = \sum_n |c_n|^2 q_n^2 - \left(\sum_n |c_n|^2 q_n \right)^2 \\ &= 0 \quad \text{if and only if } c_n = \delta_{nj}\end{aligned}$$

- every operator has a basis of determinate states

(complete set of orthonormal vectors $|\phi_n\rangle$ with definite q_n)

- these are the eigenvectors of $\hat{Q}$: $\hat{Q}|\phi_n\rangle = q_n|\phi_n\rangle$
- energy states: $\hat{H}|\psi_n\rangle = E_n|\psi_n\rangle$ Schrödinger's equation
- position: $\hat{x}|x'\rangle = x'|x'\rangle$ Dirac δ : $|x'\rangle \sim \delta(x-x')$
- momentum: $\hat{p}|k\rangle = \hbar k|k\rangle$ Plane waves $|k\rangle \sim e^{ikx}$

- so what are quantum mechanical states $|\Psi\rangle$?
a complete set of probability amplitudes (components)

* Dirac notation:

orthonormality: $\langle \phi_n | \phi_m \rangle = \delta_{nm}$

closure: $\sum_n |\phi_n\rangle \langle \phi_n| = \sum_n P_n = I$
 P_n , not $|\phi_n|^2$!

$$\hat{Q}|\phi_n\rangle = q_n|\phi_n\rangle$$

$MV = VD$ eigenvalue eqn

$$\langle \phi_m | \hat{Q} | \phi_n \rangle = q_n \delta_{mn}$$

$V^\dagger M V = D$ diagonalization

$$\hat{Q} = \sum_n |\phi_n\rangle q_n \langle \phi_n|$$

$M = V D V^\dagger$ spectral representation

Note: orthonormality & closure
are eigenvalues & spect. rep
of identity!

$$\begin{pmatrix} \langle \phi_1 | \\ \langle \phi_2 | \\ \langle \phi_3 | \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda_3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -\langle \phi_1 | \\ -\langle \phi_2 | \\ -\langle \phi_3 | \end{pmatrix} = \lambda_1 \langle \phi_1 | \phi_1 \rangle + \lambda_2 \langle \phi_2 | \phi_2 \rangle + \dots$$

$$|\Psi_m\rangle = \sum_n |\phi_n\rangle \langle \phi_n | \Psi_m \rangle = \sum_n |\phi_n\rangle \underbrace{U_{nm}}_{\text{unitary}}$$