L25-Uncertainty Principle: Time

Friday, November 20, 2015 07:28

* time dependence of expected value:

$$\frac{d}{dt}\langle Q\rangle = \frac{d}{dt}\langle\Psi|\hat{Q}|\Psi\rangle$$

$$= \langle \frac{\partial\Psi}{\partial t}|\hat{Q}|\Psi\rangle + \langle\Psi|\frac{\partial \hat{Q}}{\partial t}|\Psi\rangle + \langle\Psi|\hat{Q}|\frac{\partial\Psi}{\partial t}\rangle$$

$$= \langle \frac{1}{i\hbar}\hat{H}\Psi|\hat{Q}|\Psi\rangle + \langle\Psi|\frac{\partial\hat{Q}}{\partial t}|\Psi\rangle + \langle\Psi|\hat{Q}|\frac{1}{i\hbar}\hat{H}\Psi\rangle$$

$$\langle\frac{dQ}{dt}\rangle = \langle\Psi|\frac{i}{\hbar}[\hat{H},\hat{Q}] + \frac{\partial Q}{\partial t}|\Psi\rangle$$

even true without $\langle\Psi|\cdots|\Psi\rangle$ as an operator equation

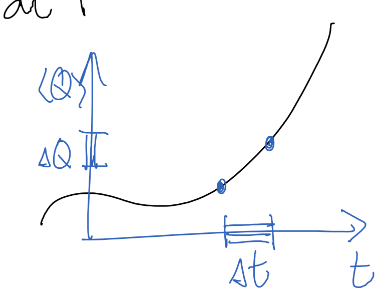
- if $[\hat{H},\hat{Q}]=0$ then $\hat{Q}$ is conserved ($\langle Q\rangle$ constant)

* how much time does it take $\langle Q\rangle$ to change?

$$\sigma_H\,\sigma_Q \geq \left|\frac{1}{2i}\langle\hat{H},\hat{Q}\rangle\right| = \left|\frac{1}{2i}\frac{\hbar}{i}\frac{d\langle Q\rangle}{dt}\right| = \frac{\hbar}{2}\left|\frac{d\langle Q\rangle}{dt}\right|$$

let $\Delta E = \sigma_H$, $\Delta t \equiv \dfrac{\sigma_Q}{|d\langle Q\rangle/dt|}$ time for $\langle Q\rangle$ to change σ_Q

then $\Delta E\,\Delta t \geq \frac{\hbar}{2}$.

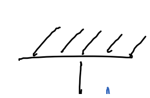


- a pure energy state never changes. $\sigma_H = 0 \Rightarrow \begin{matrix}\Delta Q = 0\\ \Delta t\to\infty\end{matrix}$
- sudden changes require infinite energy range $\Delta t\to 0 \Rightarrow \sigma_H\to\infty$

* Breit-Wigner resonances http://quantummechanics.ucsd.edu/ph130a/130_notes/node428.html

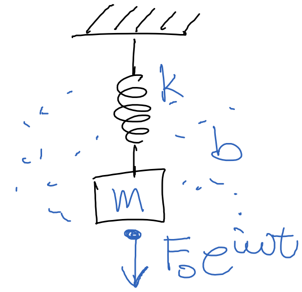
- damped, undriven classical harmonic oscillator

$kx + b\dot{x} + m\ddot{x} = 0$ let $x = e^{\alpha t}$



$kx + b\dot{x} + m\ddot{x} = 0$ let $x = e^{\alpha t}$

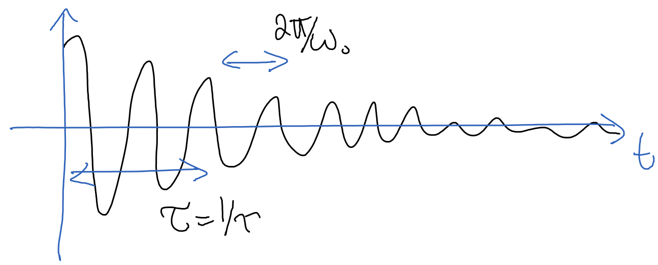
$k + b\alpha + m\alpha^2 = 0$ $\alpha = \frac{-b}{2m} \pm \sqrt{\left(\frac{b}{2m}\right)^2 - \frac{k}{m}}$



$x = \left(A_1 e^{i\omega_0 t} + A_2 e^{-i\omega_0 t}\right) e^{-\Gamma/2\, t}$ where

$\omega_0^2 = \Gamma^2 + k/m$ resonant frequency

$\Gamma \equiv \frac{b}{m} = 1/\tau$ lifetime

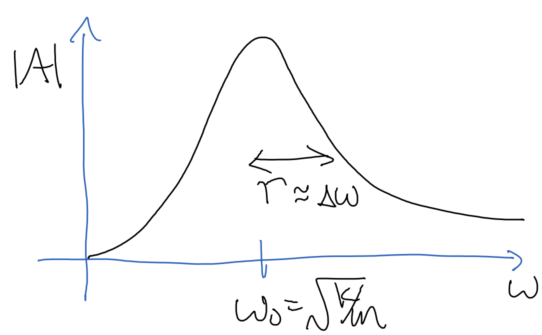


- drive it with an external frequency $F_{ext} = F_0 e^{i\omega t}$

$F_{ext} - kx - b\dot{x} = m\ddot{x}$

$F_0 e^{i\omega t} = (-m\omega^2 + ib\omega + k) A e^{i\omega t}$

$A = \frac{F_0}{(k - m\omega^2) + ib\omega}$ $|A|^2 = \frac{F_0^2}{(k - m\omega^2)^2 + b^2\omega^2}$



- transition of energy E with lifetime $\tau = 1/\Gamma$

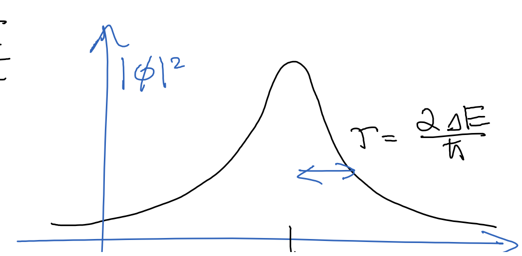
$\Psi(x,t) = \psi(x) e^{-iEt/\hbar} e^{-\Gamma t/2}$ so that $P = \int dx |\Psi|^2 \sim e^{-\Gamma t}$

$\phi(x,\omega) = \mathcal{F}\{\Psi(x,t)\} = \int dt\, e^{i\omega t} \left[\psi(x) e^{-iEt/\hbar} e^{-\Gamma t/2}\right]$

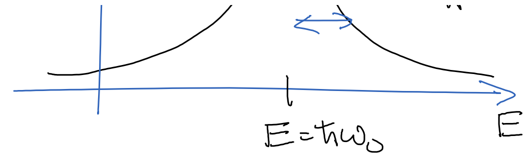
$= \int_0^\infty dt\, e^{i(\omega - \omega_0 + \frac{i\Gamma}{2})} = \frac{i}{(\omega - \omega_0) + i\frac{\Gamma}{2}}$ $E = \hbar\omega_0$

thus $I(\omega) = \|\phi_i(x,\omega)\|^2 = \frac{1}{(\omega - \omega_0)^2 + \frac{\Gamma^2}{4}}$

"Breit-Wigner" line shape. FWHM Γ



Breit-Wigner line shape. Plot



note: $\Delta E \cdot \Delta t = \hbar \frac{\Gamma}{2} \cdot \tau = \hbar/2$

- the longer a transition takes, the more oscillations go into the wave packet, and the better defined the frequency is: $\Delta t \, \Delta\omega \geq \frac{1}{2}$ (just like $\Delta x \cdot \Delta k \geq \frac{1}{2}$)