

175155:

# Proof of the Quantum Hamilton Equation

The position representation gives the first Hamilton equation, and the momentum representation the second Hamilton equation.

## Position Representation

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \hat{p}_x \psi &= -i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x}, & \hat{x} \psi &= x \psi \end{aligned} \right\} - (1)$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \hat{p}_x \psi^* &= i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi^*}{\partial x}, & \hat{x} \psi^* &= x \psi^* \end{aligned} \right\}$$

$$\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} = -\frac{\hat{p}_x}{i\hbar} \psi, \quad \frac{\partial \psi^*}{\partial x} = \frac{\hat{p}_x^*}{i\hbar} \psi^* - (2)$$

## Momentum Representation

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \hat{x} \psi &= -i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial p_x}, & \hat{p}_x \psi &= p_x \psi \end{aligned} \right\} - (3)$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \hat{x} \psi^* &= i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi^*}{\partial p_x}, & \hat{p}_x \psi^* &= p_x \psi^* \end{aligned} \right\}$$

$$\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial p_x} = \frac{\hat{x}}{i\hbar} \psi; \quad \frac{\partial \psi^*}{\partial p_x} = -\frac{\hat{x}^*}{i\hbar} \psi^* - (4)$$

## First Quantum Hamilton Equation

First note that the definition of Hermiticity is:

$$\int \psi_n^* \Omega \psi_n d\tau = \left( \int \psi_n^* \Omega \psi_n d\tau \right)^* = \int \psi_n \Omega^* \psi_n^* d\tau - (5)$$

Now we:  $\int \psi_n \Omega^* \psi_n^* d\tau = \int \Omega^* \psi_n^* \psi_n d\tau - (6)$

This proves the Atkin result (5.2.2).

) Now consider:

$$\hat{p} \psi = -i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x}, \quad (\hat{p} \psi)^* = i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi^*}{\partial x} \quad - (7)$$

Therefore:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d \langle \hat{x} \rangle}{dx} &= 1 = - \frac{d}{dx} \int \psi^* \hat{x} \psi d\tau \\ &= - \left( \int \frac{\partial \psi^*}{\partial x} \hat{x} \psi d\tau + \int \psi^* \hat{x} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} d\tau \right) \\ &= \frac{i}{\hbar} \int (\hat{p} \psi)^* \hat{x} \psi - \psi^* \hat{x} \hat{p} \psi d\tau \quad - (8) \end{aligned}$$

From eq. (6):

$$\frac{d \langle \hat{x} \rangle}{dx} = 1 = \frac{i}{\hbar} \int \psi^* (\hat{p} \hat{x} - \hat{x} \hat{p}) \psi d\tau$$

$$= \frac{i}{\hbar} \int \psi^* [\hat{p}, \hat{x}] \psi d\tau$$

$$\frac{d \langle \hat{x} \rangle}{dx} = \frac{i}{\hbar} \langle [\hat{p}, \hat{x}] \rangle \quad - (9)$$

The first quantum Hamilton equation is obtained by generalizing:

$$\hat{x} \rightarrow \hat{A} \quad - (10)$$

and is:

$$\boxed{\frac{d \langle \hat{A} \rangle}{dx} = \frac{i}{\hbar} \langle [\hat{p}, \hat{A}] \rangle} \quad - (11)$$

where  $\langle \hat{A} \rangle$  is any operator.

3) So if:  $\hat{A} = \hat{H} \quad - (12)$

where  $\hat{H} \psi = E \psi \quad - (13)$

then:  $\frac{d \langle \hat{H} \rangle}{dx} = \frac{i}{\hbar} \langle [\hat{p}, \hat{H}] \rangle \quad - (14)$

However, it is known that:

$$\frac{d \langle \hat{p} \rangle}{dt} = \frac{i}{\hbar} \langle [\hat{H}, \hat{p}] \rangle \quad - (15)$$

so the first quantum Hamilton equation is:

$$\frac{d \langle \hat{H} \rangle}{dx} = - \frac{d \langle \hat{p} \rangle}{dt} \quad - (16)$$

i.e.  $\frac{dH}{dx} = - \frac{dp}{dt} \quad - (17)$

Q.E.D  
check

where  $\hat{A} = \frac{1}{x} \quad - (18)$

$$\langle [\hat{p}, \frac{1}{x}] \rangle = - i \hbar \frac{dx}{dx} = - 2 i \hbar x \quad - (19)$$

This is correct because:

$$\begin{aligned} [\hat{p}, \frac{1}{x}] \psi &= [\hat{p}, x x] \psi \\ &= - \left( [x, \hat{p}] x + x [\hat{x}, \hat{p}] \right) \psi = - 2 i \hbar x \quad - (20) \end{aligned}$$

Q.E.D

4)  
: Note carefully that in order to obtain the correct result, then:

$$\langle x \rangle = x - (21)$$

but a minus sign enters into the right hand side of eq. (8).

where:  $\hat{A} = \hat{p} - (22)$

then:  $\frac{d\langle \hat{p} \rangle}{dx} = 0 - (23)$

i.e.  $\langle \hat{p} \rangle = p$  does not change with distance:

$$\boxed{\frac{dp}{dx} = 0} - (24)$$

is a classical result. The minus sign in eq. (8) is a fundamental axiom of quantum mechanics:

$$\boxed{\frac{d\langle \hat{x} \rangle}{dx} = - \frac{d}{dx} \int \psi^* \hat{x} \psi d\tau = 1} - (25)$$

Second Quantum Hamilton Equation.

By axiom:

$$\boxed{\frac{d\langle \hat{p} \rangle}{dp} = - \frac{d}{dp} \int \psi^* \hat{p} \psi d\tau = 1} - (26)$$

$$= - \int \left( \frac{\partial \psi^*}{\partial p} \hat{p} \psi + \psi^* \hat{p} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial p} \right) d\tau - (27)$$

Using eq. (4):

$$\frac{d\langle \hat{p} \rangle}{dp} = 1 = \frac{1}{i\hbar} \int (\hat{x}^* \psi^\dagger \hat{p} \psi - \psi^\dagger \hat{p} \hat{x} \psi) d\tau. \quad (28)$$

Using eq. (5):

$$\frac{d\langle \hat{p} \rangle}{dp} = 1 = \frac{1}{i\hbar} \int \psi^\dagger (\hat{x} \hat{p} - \hat{p} \hat{x}) \psi d\tau \quad (29)$$

$$= -\frac{i}{\hbar} \langle [\hat{x}, \hat{p}] \rangle \quad (30)$$

Generalizing:

$$\hat{p} \rightarrow \hat{A}. \quad (31)$$

So:

$$\boxed{\frac{d\langle \hat{A} \rangle}{dp} = -\frac{i}{\hbar} \langle [\hat{x}, \hat{A}] \rangle} \quad (32)$$

for any  $\hat{A}$ .

Check

If  $\hat{A} = \hat{p}$  then:

$$\langle [\hat{x}, \hat{p}^2] \rangle = 2i\hbar. \quad (33)$$

This is correct because:

$$\begin{aligned} [\hat{p}^2, \hat{x}] \psi &= [\hat{p} \hat{p}, \hat{x}] \psi \\ &= -([\hat{x}, \hat{p}] \hat{p} + \hat{p} [\hat{x}, \hat{p}]) \psi \quad (34) \\ &= -2i\hbar \hat{p} \psi \end{aligned}$$

Q.E.D.

Now consider:

b)

then:

$$\hat{A} = \hat{H} \quad - (35)$$

$$\frac{d \langle \hat{H} \rangle}{dp} = -\frac{i}{\hbar} \langle [\hat{x}, \hat{H}] \rangle \quad - (36)$$

which is the second quantum Hamilton equation.

It is known that:

$$\langle [\hat{x}, \hat{H}] \rangle = -\frac{\hbar}{i} \frac{d \langle \hat{x} \rangle}{dt} \quad - (37)$$

so

$$\frac{d \langle \hat{H} \rangle}{dp} = \frac{d \langle \hat{x} \rangle}{dt} \quad - (38)$$

i.e

$$\frac{dH}{dp} = \frac{dx}{dt} \quad - (39)$$

which is Hamilton's second equation in classical dynamics, Q.E.D.