

176(5): The Higher Order Quantum Hamilton Equations and Reduction to Poisson Brackets.

Consider the quantum Hamilton equation in operator format:

$$i\hbar \frac{d\hat{A}}{dx} = [\hat{A}, \hat{p}] \quad - (1)$$

$$i\hbar \frac{d\hat{A}}{dp} = -[\hat{A}, \hat{x}] \quad - (2)$$

in Cartesian coordinates in one dimension. Here \hat{A} is any valid, hermitian operator of quantum mechanics. The higher order quantum Hamilton equations are built up with:

$$[\hat{A}, \hat{p}\hat{p}] = [\hat{A}, \hat{p}]\hat{p} + \hat{p}[\hat{A}, \hat{p}] \quad - (3)$$

and higher order commutator algebra. For example:

$$[\hat{A}, \hat{p}\hat{p}]\psi = i\hbar \left(\frac{d\hat{A}}{dx} \hat{p} + \hat{p} \frac{d\hat{A}}{dx} \right) \psi \quad - (4)$$

If:
$$\hat{A} = \hat{x}\hat{x} \quad - (5)$$

then:
$$[\hat{x}\hat{x}, \hat{p}\hat{p}]\psi = i\hbar \left(\frac{d\hat{x}\hat{x}}{dx} \hat{p} + \hat{p} \frac{d\hat{x}\hat{x}}{dx} \right) \psi \quad - (6)$$

where
$$\hat{x}\psi = x\psi \quad - (7)$$

so
$$\hat{x}\hat{x}\psi = x^2\psi \quad - (8)$$

and
$$\left(\frac{d\hat{x}\hat{x}}{dx} \right) \psi = 2x\psi \quad - (9)$$

Therefore

$$2) \quad [\hat{x}\hat{x}, \hat{p}\hat{p}] \psi = 2i\hbar (\hat{x}\hat{p} + \hat{p}\hat{x}) \psi - (10)$$

$$= 2i\hbar \{\hat{x}, \hat{p}\} \psi - (11)$$

Q.E.D as in previous work.

In the position representation:

$$\hat{p} \psi = -i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} - (12)$$

and

$$\{\hat{x}, \hat{p}\} \psi = \hat{x}(\hat{p} \psi) + \hat{p}(\hat{x} \psi) - (13)$$

$$= -i\hbar \left(x \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (x \psi) \right)$$

$$= -i\hbar \left(\psi + 2x \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} \right)$$

$$\boxed{\{\hat{x}, \hat{p}\} \psi = -i\hbar \psi + 2x \hat{p} \psi} - (14)$$

Therefore:

$$\boxed{[\hat{x}\hat{x}, \hat{p}\hat{p}] \psi = 2\hbar^2 \psi + 4ix\hat{p} \psi} - (15)$$

Q.E.D as in previous work.

If \hat{G} and \hat{F} are two operators of quantum
 class then the Poisson bracket of \hat{G} and \hat{F} is
 defined by:

$$3) \quad \frac{\langle [\hat{G}, \hat{F}] \rangle}{i\hbar} \xrightarrow{\hbar \rightarrow 0} (G, F) \quad - (16)$$

where

$$(G, F) = \frac{\partial G}{\partial x} \frac{\partial F}{\partial p} - \frac{\partial F}{\partial x} \frac{\partial G}{\partial p} \quad - (17)$$

Eq. (16) was discovered by Dirac for his Ph.D. thesis. Using this equation the new quantum Hamilton equation become:

$$\frac{d \langle \hat{A} \rangle}{dt} \xrightarrow{\hbar \rightarrow 0} (A, p) \quad - (18)$$

$$\frac{d \langle \hat{A} \rangle}{dp} \xrightarrow{\hbar \rightarrow 0} - (A, x) \quad - (19)$$

Eqs. (18) and (19) generalize the Hamilton equations because

$$\frac{dA}{dx} = \frac{\partial A}{\partial x} \frac{\partial p}{\partial p} - \frac{\partial A}{\partial p} \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial A}{\partial x} \quad - (20)$$

$$\frac{dA}{dp} = - \frac{\partial A}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial p} + \frac{\partial A}{\partial p} \frac{\partial x}{\partial x} = - \frac{\partial A}{\partial p} \quad - (21)$$

and we obtain the classical equations

$$\left[\frac{dA}{dx} = (A, p), \quad \frac{dA}{dp} = - (A, x) \right] \quad - (22)$$

in the quantum Hamilton equations (1) and (2).

4) Finally we have equation:

$$\frac{dH}{dx} = (H, p), \quad \frac{dH}{dp} = -(H, x) \quad (23)$$

To find the Hamilton equations:

$$\frac{dH}{dp} = \frac{dx}{dt}, \quad \frac{dH}{dx} = -\frac{dp}{dt} \quad (24)$$

Quantum

Classical.

$$i\hbar \frac{d\hat{A}}{dx} \psi = [\hat{A}, \hat{p}] \psi$$

$$\frac{dA}{dx} = (A, p)$$

$$i\hbar \frac{d\hat{A}}{dp} \psi = -[\hat{A}, \hat{x}] \psi$$

$$\frac{dA}{dp} = -(A, x)$$

$$i\hbar \frac{d\hat{H}}{dx} \psi = [\hat{H}, \hat{p}] \psi$$

$$\frac{dH}{dx} = (H, p)$$

$$i\hbar \frac{d\hat{H}}{dp} \psi = -[\hat{H}, \hat{x}] \psi$$

$$\frac{dH}{dp} = -(H, x)$$

These equations of the Hamiltonian formulation of quantum dynamics are more equations. The older Newtonian formulation is:

Quantum

Classical

$$i\hbar \frac{d\hat{A}}{dt} = [\hat{A}, \hat{H}] \psi$$

$$\frac{dA}{dt} = (A, H)$$

5) Discussion

As in previous work the commutator (15) is zero for the harmonic oscillator and non-zero for the H wavefunctions. So eq. (15) cannot be interpreted by the Copenhagen philosophy.

We have:

$$\frac{\langle [\hat{x}^2, \hat{p}^2] \rangle}{i\hbar} \xrightarrow{\hbar \rightarrow 0} (x^2, p^2) = 4xp \quad (25)$$

so this is an example of a commutator with a non-zero classical limit. The usual commutator is:

$$\frac{\langle [\hat{x}, \hat{p}] \rangle}{i\hbar} \xrightarrow{\hbar \rightarrow 0} (x, p) = 1 \quad (26)$$

which also has a non-zero classical limit of 1 if the Poisson bracket limit is used. In fact case the general rule is:

$$\frac{\langle [\hat{A}, \hat{B}] \rangle}{i\hbar} \xrightarrow{\hbar \rightarrow 0} (A, B) \quad (27)$$

This is a very clear refutation of the Copenhagen philosophy because the latter is wholly concentrated on one special case of the general result (27), the special case being:

$$(A, B) = 1 \quad (28)$$

$$\Delta A \Delta B = \hbar/2 = \text{constant}$$

i.e.

In general, (A, B) is not constant.