

IS QUANTUM THEORY A FORM OF STATISTICAL MECHANICS?

[See: S. Adler

"Quantum Theory as an Emergent Phenomenon" Cambridge 2004

also hep-th/0510120]

QUANTUM MECHANICS IS OUR MOST SUCCESSFUL PHYSICAL THEORY. THERE ARE TWO POSSIBILITIES:

- IT IS EXACT, WITH (PERHAPS) A NEED FOR REINTERPRETATION AT A FOUNDATIONAL LEVEL: MANY WORLDS / HISTORIES
BOHMIAN / BAYESIAN ...
- IT IS NOT EXACT, BUT IS A VERY ACCURATE ASYMPTOTIC APPROXIMATION TO A DEEPER LEVEL THEORY - A PRE-QUANTUM MECHANICS

MOTIVATIONS FOR PURSUING SECOND POSSIBILITY:

- RIDDLE OF "CANONICAL QUANTIZATION"

STANDARD APPROACH -

WRITE DOWN A CLASSICAL THEORY

"QUANTIZE" IT BY: POISSON BRACKET

→ $-\frac{i}{\hbar}$ COMMUTATOR

Q's:

(1) IF QUANTUM THEORY IS MORE FUNDAMENTAL,
WHY CAN'T IT BE OBTAINED DIRECTLY FROM
AN OPERATOR THEORY?

(2) WHAT IS ORIGIN OF PLANCK CONSTANT \hbar ?

CANONICAL QUANTIZATION LOOKS VERY MUCH
LIKE AN ALGORITHM TO INVERT THE
CLASSICAL LIMIT OF QUANTUM THEORY

- MEASUREMENT PROBLEM

Q MECH. A LINEAR THEORY - UNITARY TIME
EVOLUTION

"MEASUREMENTS" INVOLVE A NONLINEAR "STATE
VECTOR REDUCTION" INDUCED BY A
"CLASSICAL" APPARATUS

"PREFERRED BASIS" PROBLEM

HOW DO PROBABILITIES BECOME REALITIES?

WHY SHOULD ONE HAVE PROBABILITIES
WITHOUT AN UNDERLYING SAMPLE SPACE?

- PECuliarITIES OF QUANTUM THEORY
NONLOCALITY - EPR
INFINITIES IN QUANTUM FIELD THEORY

- UNIFICATION OF QUANTUM THEORY
WITH GRAVITATION

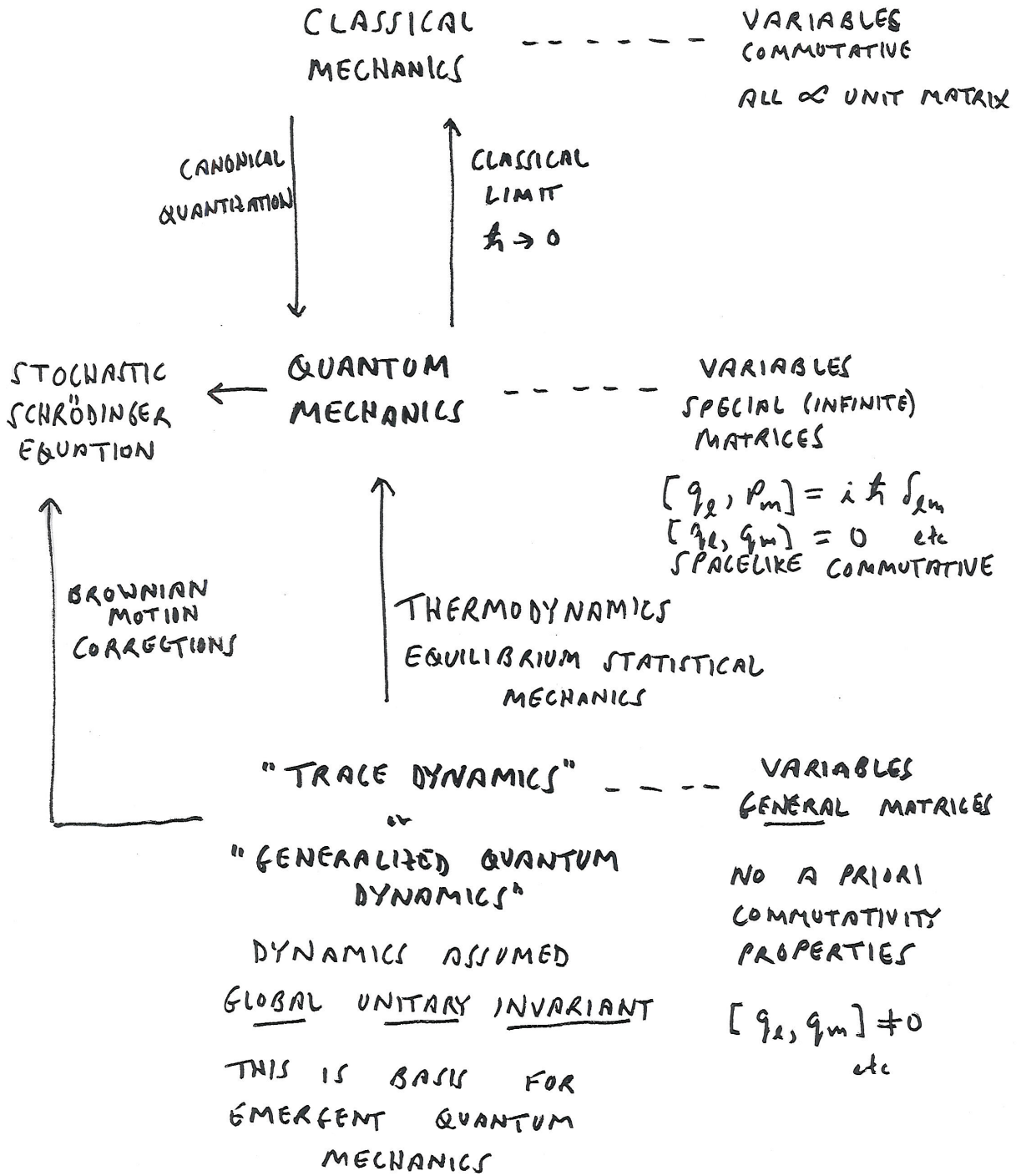
FOCUS HAS BEEN ON "PRE-GEOMETRIC"
THEORIES LIKE STRING THEORY

UNDERLYING THEORY COULD BE

"PRE-QUANTUM MECHANICAL" AS WELL

- COSMOLOGICAL CONSTANT PROBLEM -
HAS RESISTED ALL ATTEMPTS AT SOLUTION
WITHIN STANDARD QUANTUM FRAMEWORK

- I HAVE A CONCRETE IDEA AS TO
HOW ONE MIGHT PROCEED



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• OVERVIEW OF TRACE DYNAMICS

"GENERALIZED QUANTUM DYNAMICS" OR

"TRACE DYNAMICS" IS A NONCOMMUTATIVE
GENERALIZATION OF CLASSICAL LAGRANGIAN
AND HAMILTONIAN DYNAMICS

HOW IT WORKS (BOSONIC CASE)

$$\{q_n\} \quad \{\dot{q}_n\} \quad \bullet = \frac{\partial}{\partial t}$$

↑
NONCOMMUTING COORDINATES -
OPERATORS ON UNDERLYING COMPLEX
HILBERT SPACE

$$L = L[\{q_n\}, \{\dot{q}_n\}]$$

ORDERING IMPORTANT, SO $\frac{\delta L}{\delta q_n}$

NOT DEFINED

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NOW USE CYCLIC INVARIANCE OF
TRACE : DEFINE

TRACE LAGRANGIAN \underline{L}_m

$$\underline{L}_m = \text{Tr } L$$

FORM $\delta \underline{L}_m$ AND REORDER CYCLICALLY

SO THAT ALL $\delta q_n, \delta \dot{q}_n$ STAND ON
THE RIGHT

DEFINITION

$$\delta \underline{L}_m = \text{Tr} \sum_n \left(\frac{\delta \underline{L}_m}{\delta q_n} \delta q_n + \frac{\delta \underline{L}_m}{\delta \dot{q}_n} \delta \dot{q}_n \right)$$

CAN NOW SHOW

$$\textcircled{1} \quad 0 = \delta \underline{S} = \delta \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt \underline{L}_m$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\delta \underline{L}_m}{\delta q_n} - \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\delta \underline{L}_m}{\delta \dot{q}_n} = 0$$

DIRECTLY GIVES OPERATOR EULER-LAGRANGE
EQUATIONS

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HAVE A DYNAMICS THAT IS MORE
GENERAL THAN QUANTUM MECHANICS

TO RECOVER QUANTUM MECHANICS, WE
CONSIDER THE EQUILIBRIUM STATISTICAL
MECHANICS OF THIS DYNAMICS

HAVE THREE GENERIC CONSERVED QUANTITIES:

① TRACE HAMILTONIAN

$$\text{DEFINE } p_n = \frac{\int \underline{L}}{\int \dot{q}_n}$$

$$\underline{H} = \text{Tr} \left(\int_n p_n \dot{q}_n \right) - \int_n \underline{L}$$

THEN

$$\underbrace{\frac{\delta \underline{H}}{\delta q_n} = -\dot{p}_n \quad \frac{\delta \underline{H}}{\delta p_n} = \dot{q}_n}_{\text{OPERATOR HAMILTON EQUATIONS}}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\underline{H}}{dt} &= \text{Tr} \int_n \left(\frac{\delta \underline{H}}{\delta q_n} \dot{q}_n + \frac{\delta \underline{H}}{\delta p_n} \dot{p}_n \right) \\ &= \text{Tr} \int_n \left(-\dot{p}_n \dot{q}_n + \dot{q}_n \dot{p}_n \right) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

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ANDREW MILLARD

② OPERATOR

$$\tilde{C} = \sum_{\alpha} [q_{\alpha}, p_{\alpha}] = -\tilde{C}^{\dagger}$$

$$\left(\text{WITH FERMIONS, } \tilde{C} = \sum_{\alpha, B} [q_{\alpha}, p_{\alpha}] - \sum_{\alpha, F} \{q_{\alpha}, p_{\alpha}\} \right)$$

SUPPOSE \hat{H} IS GLOBAL UNITARY INVARIANT

(I.E. IT INVOLVES NO NONCOMMUTATIVE CONSTANTS)

\tilde{C} IS CORRESPONDING NOETHER CHARGE OPERATOR

$$\frac{d\tilde{C}}{dt} = 0$$

③ PHASE SPACE MEASURE

LET

$$d\mu = \prod_{\alpha, m, n, A} d\langle m | q_{\alpha} | n \rangle^A d\langle m | p_{\alpha} | n \rangle^A$$

↑
INDEXES REAL COMPONENTS

$d\mu$ IS INVARIANT UNDER CANONICAL
TRANSFORMATIONS $\delta p_{\alpha} = -\frac{\delta G}{\delta q_{\alpha}}$ $\delta q_{\alpha} = \frac{\delta G}{\delta p_{\alpha}}$

⇒ GENERALIZED LIOUVILLE THEOREM

CAN USE STATISTICAL MECHANICS

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CANONICAL ENSEMBLE:

$$\rho = \frac{1}{Z} e^{-\tau H - \text{Tr}(\tilde{\chi} \tilde{C})}$$

$$\int d\mu \rho = 1 \quad \Rightarrow$$

$$Z = \int d\mu e^{-\tau H - \text{Tr}(\tilde{\chi} \tilde{C})}$$

 $\tilde{\chi}, \tau$ ARE ENSEMBLE PARAMETERS

$$\langle \tilde{C} \rangle_{AV} \equiv \dot{\chi}_{eff} D$$

$$\dot{\chi}_{eff}^2 = -1$$

$$\dot{\chi}_{eff}^+ = -\dot{\chi}_{eff}$$

$$[\dot{\chi}_{eff}, D] = 0$$

SIMPLEST CASE IS $D = \mathbb{1}$
 MULTIPLE OF UNIT MATRIX

$$D = \mathbb{1}$$

$\langle \tilde{\zeta} \rangle_{AV}$ A FUNCTION OF $\tilde{\lambda}, \zeta$

$$\Rightarrow \tilde{\lambda} = \lambda_{eff} \lambda$$

SO THE CANONICAL ENSEMBLE ONLY PARTIALLY BREAKS THE GLOBAL UNITARY INVARIANCE: ρ INVARIANT UNDER U_{eff} FOR WHICH $U_{eff}^\dagger \lambda_{eff} U_{eff} = \lambda_{eff}$

SINCE
$$\begin{aligned} \text{Tr } \tilde{\lambda} \tilde{\zeta} &\rightarrow \text{Tr } \tilde{\lambda} U_{eff}^\dagger \tilde{\zeta} U_{eff} \\ &= \text{Tr } U_{eff} \tilde{\lambda} U_{eff}^\dagger \tilde{\zeta} = \text{Tr } \tilde{\lambda} \tilde{\zeta} \end{aligned}$$

SO WE WILL AVERAGE TOO MUCH IF WE USE $\int d\mu \rho$

LET
$$d\mu' = d\mu \Big|_{\substack{\text{OVERALL } U_{eff} \\ \text{FROZEN}}}$$

USE THIS RESTRICTED MEASURE TO FORM THERMODYNAMIC AVERAGES

LET X BE ANY q_n OR p_n

$$X_{eff} \equiv \frac{1}{2} (X - \lambda_{eff} X \lambda_{eff}) = \text{PART OF } X \text{ THAT COMMUTES WITH } \lambda_{eff}$$

$$\lambda_{eff} X_{eff} = \frac{1}{2} (\lambda_{eff} X + X \lambda_{eff}) = X_{eff} \lambda_{eff}$$

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SKETCH OF GENERAL WARD IDENTITY

DERIVATION:
$$\frac{\int d\mu' \rho \mathcal{O}}{\int d\mu' \rho} = \langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_{AV}$$

TAKE $\mathcal{O} = \{ \tilde{C}, i_{eff} \} W$

• USE $\int d\mu' \delta[\rho \mathcal{O}] = 0$

(TRANSLATION INVARIANCE OF MEASURE $d\mu'$)

• NEGLECT τ TERM COMING FROM \mathcal{S}_0

• REPLACE $\tilde{C} \rightarrow \langle \tilde{C} \rangle_{AV}$ IN INTEGRANDS

• MAKE VARIOUS CHOICES FOR W

$W \propto$ CANONICAL q OR p

GIVES CANONICAL ALGEBRA INSIDE $\langle \rangle_{AV}$

$W \propto H$ (OPERATOR HAMILTONIAN)

GIVES HEISENBERG EQ. OF MOTION INSIDE $\langle \rangle_{AV}$

$W \propto G = G^\dagger$ GIVES UNITARY CANONICAL

TRANSFORMATION INSIDE $\langle \rangle_{AV}$

CAN INCLUDE SOURCES IN ρ SO THAT

$\langle \rangle_{AV}$ HAS SOURCE TERMS THAT CAN BE VARIED

REMARKS:

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- (1) $O(\tilde{\chi})$ TERM IN WARD IDENTITIES VANISHES BECAUSE

$$\{i_{ctk}, [\tilde{\chi}, X]\} \propto [\tilde{\chi}, X_{ctk}] = 0$$

- (2) CONDITIONS FOR NEGLECT OF $O(\chi)$ TERMS IN WARD IDENTITIES

NEED BOSON - FERMION BALANCE

SUFFICES FOR \hat{X}_{ctk} AND \tilde{C}_{ctk} TO HAVE DISJOINT SUPPORT ON OPERATOR PHASE SPACE



WHY BOSON - FERMION BALANCE IS NEEDED

$$\langle [q_s, p_\alpha] \rangle_{AV} = i_{ctk} \pm \langle \hat{C}_s \rangle$$

$\alpha = s$ AND SUM

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \sum_{\alpha} [q_\alpha, p_\alpha] \rangle_{AV} &= \langle \tilde{C} \rangle_{AV} = i_{ctk} \pm \\ &= i_{ctk} \pm \sum_{\alpha} 1 = N_B \end{aligned} \quad \text{CONTRADICTION}$$

WHEN BOTH BOSONS + FERMIONS
PRESENT

$$\text{BOSON} \quad \langle [q_s, p_\lambda] \rangle_{AV} = i_{eff} \hbar \omega_s + \dots$$

$$\text{FERMION} \quad \langle \{q_s, p_\lambda\} \rangle_{AV} = i_{eff} \hbar \omega_s + \dots$$

$\lambda = s$ AND SUM

$$\langle \sum_{\lambda, B} [q_\lambda, p_\lambda] - \sum_{\lambda, F} \{q_\lambda, p_\lambda\} \rangle_{AV}$$

$$= \langle \tilde{C} \rangle_{AV} = i_{eff} \hbar$$

$$= i_{eff} \hbar (N_B - N_F) + \dots$$

NO CONTRADICTION IF $N_B = N_F$

- WHY THERE ARE BROWNIAN MOTION CORRECTIONS

$$\tilde{\Sigma} = \underbrace{\langle \Sigma \rangle_{av}}_{i\epsilon\hbar \hbar} + \Delta \tilde{\Sigma}$$

↑ RAPIDLY FLUCTUATING

$$\frac{1}{2} \{ \tilde{C}, i\epsilon\hbar \} = -\hbar + \frac{1}{2} \{ \Delta \tilde{C}, i\epsilon\hbar \}$$

$-\hbar(\mathcal{K} + \mathcal{N})$

\mathcal{K} = FLUCTUATING C-NUMBER

\mathcal{N} = FLUCTUATING MATRIX, WITH OPERATOR ANALOG

see hep-th/0510120 for update to book
Chapter 6

FROM \mathcal{N} TERM: APPROPRIATE ANSATZ
CORRESPONDS TO MASS-PROPORTIONAL
FORM OF "CONTINUOUS SPONTANEOUS
LOCALIZATION" (CSL) STOCHASTIC
SCHRÖDINGER EQUATION

STOCHASTIC MODIFIED SCHRÖDINGER
EQN. - SIMPLE CASE FOR POINTER
WITH CENTER OF MASS VARIABLE q

(THIS IS THE LEADING SMALL DISPLACEMENT
APPROXIMATION TO THE GRW AND
CSL MODELS)

$$d|\psi\rangle = \frac{-i}{\hbar} H |\psi\rangle dt - \frac{\eta}{2} (q - \langle q \rangle)^2 |\psi\rangle dt + \sqrt{\eta} (q - \langle q \rangle) |\psi\rangle dW_t$$

$$\langle q \rangle = \langle \psi | q | \psi \rangle$$

EXPECTATION
VALUE OF q
IN STATE $|\psi\rangle$

BECAUSE $|\psi\rangle$ APPEARS IN $\langle q \rangle$,
THIS IS A NONLINEAR STOCHASTIC
DIFFERENTIAL EQUATION

- THIS EQUATION CAN BE PROVED TO GIVE STATE VECTOR REDUCTION ON POSITION EIGENSTATES WITH BORN RULE PROBABILITIES
- FOR DETAILED DISCUSSION OF RATES + ALLOWED PARAMETER VALUES FOR CSL REDUCTION SEE:
S. Adler [quant-ph/0605072](#)

SUMMARY

TRACE DYNAMICS AS
PRE-QUANTUM MECHANICS

- THERMODYNAMICS - VIA EQUIPARTITION THEOREMS (WARD IDENTITIES)
⇒ UNITARY EVOLUTION
- BROWNIAN MOTION CORRECTIONS - VIA CSL PHENOMENOLOGY
⇒ BORN RULE, PROBABILITY INTERPRETATION

I WILL NOW GIVE SOME DETAILS
OF DERIVATIONS :

- CONSERVATION OF $\tilde{\Sigma}$
- WARD IDENTITY DERIVATION
(SIMPLIFIED EXAMPLE)
- STOCHASTIC SCHRÖDINGER EQN
→ REDUCTION WITH BORN
RULE PROBABILITIES

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$$\Rightarrow \sum_{\lambda} [\dot{q}_{\lambda}, p_{\lambda}] + [q_{\lambda}, \dot{p}_{\lambda}] = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \dot{\tilde{C}} = 0$$

$$\tilde{C} = \sum_{\lambda} [q_{\lambda}, p_{\lambda}] \quad \text{BOSONS}$$

WHEN FERMIONS (GRASSMANN ODD
 q_{λ}, p_{λ}) INCLUDED

$$\tilde{C} = \sum_{\lambda, \text{BOSONS}} [q_{\lambda}, p_{\lambda}] - \sum_{\lambda, \text{FERMIONS}} \{q_{\lambda}, p_{\lambda}\}$$

$$\dot{\tilde{C}} = 0$$

- EXACT WARD IDENTITY
(BOSON CASE)

$$Z \langle \text{Tr } \tilde{C} \rho_a \rangle_{av} = \int d\mu e^{-\tau \underline{H} - \text{Tr } \tilde{\lambda} \tilde{C}} \text{Tr } \tilde{C} \rho_a$$

MAKE A CONSTANT SHIFT OF ρ_s

$$\delta_s(d\mu) = 0$$

\Rightarrow

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \int d\mu \delta_s \left[e^{-\tau \underline{H} - \text{Tr } \tilde{\lambda} \tilde{C}} \text{Tr } \tilde{C} \rho_a \right] \\ &= \int d\mu e^{-\tau \underline{H} - \text{Tr } \tilde{\lambda} \tilde{C}} \\ &\quad \times \left[\left(-\tau \delta_s \underline{H} - \text{Tr } \tilde{\lambda} \delta_s \tilde{C} \right) \text{Tr } \tilde{C} \rho_a \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \text{Tr} (\delta_s \tilde{C}) \rho_a + \text{Tr } \tilde{C} \delta_{a_s} \rho_s \right] \end{aligned}$$

FOR

$$\underline{H} = \text{Tr} \left[\sum_{\tilde{a}} \frac{1}{2} \rho_{\tilde{a}}^2 + V(\{q_{\tilde{a}}\}) \right],$$

$$\delta_s \underline{H} = \text{Tr} \rho_s \delta \rho_s$$

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$$\text{ALSO, } \delta_r \tilde{C} = [q_s, \delta p_s]$$

 \Rightarrow

$$0 = \left\langle \left(-z \text{Tr} \nu_s \delta p_s - \text{Tr} [\tilde{\lambda}, q_s] \delta p_s \right) \text{Tr} \tilde{C} \nu_n \right. \\ \left. + \text{Tr} [p_n, q_s] \delta p_s + \text{Tr} \tilde{C} \delta \nu_n \delta p_s \right\rangle_{AV}$$

 δp_s ARBITRARY \Rightarrow OPERATOR RELATION

$$0 = \left\langle \left(-z \nu_s - [\tilde{\lambda}, q_s] \right) \text{Tr} \tilde{C} \nu_n \right.$$

$$\left. + [p_n, q_s] + \tilde{C} \delta \nu_n \right\rangle_{AV}$$

$$= -[\tilde{\lambda}, \langle q_s \text{Tr} \tilde{C} \nu_n \rangle_{AV}] = 0$$

 \uparrow
FUNCTION OF $z, \tilde{\lambda}$

SUBSTITUTING

$$\nu_n = \nu_n^c + \nu_n^t$$

 \uparrow
CLASSICAL
PART

 \uparrow
TRACELESS
PART

$$\langle \tilde{C} \rangle_{AV} = i_{eff} \star$$

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REMAINING THREE TERMS GIVE

$$\langle [q_s, p_n] \rangle_{AV} = i_{eff} \pm \delta_{ns} - \gamma \langle p_s' T_{\mu} \tilde{C} p_n' \rangle_{AV}$$

IF γ TERM CAN BE NEGLECTED

\Rightarrow

$$\langle [q_s, p_n] \rangle_{AV} = i_{eff} \pm \delta_{ns}$$

- REDUCTION WITH BORN RULE PROBABILITIES²¹
STRUCTURE OF THE CSL EQUATION IS
FIXED BY 2 REQUIREMENTS:

(1) STATE VECTOR NORMALIZATION

$$d \langle \psi | \psi \rangle = 0$$

(2) NO SUPERLUMINAL COMMUNICATION

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

OBEYS

$$d\hat{\rho} = \frac{-i}{\hbar} [H, \hat{\rho}] dt - \frac{1}{2} \eta [q, [\eta, \hat{\rho}]] dt$$

$$+ \sqrt{\eta} [\hat{\rho}, [\hat{\rho}, q]] dW_x$$

ONLY NONLINEARITY IS STOCHASTIC
TERM

→ STOCHASTIC
EXPECTATION $\rho = E[\hat{\rho}]$ OBEYS A

LINEAR EQN., SO SEQUENCES OF
MEASUREMENTS CANNOT SEND / RECEIVE
SUPERLUMINAL SIGNALS

IGNORE HAMILTONIAN TERM
 (E.G. POINTER EIGENSTATES $|q_1\rangle, |q_2\rangle$
 ARE ENERGY-DEGENERATE)

(i) WHEN $\hat{\rho} = \Pi_{q_1} = |q_1\rangle\langle q_1|$

$$[q, \hat{\rho}] = 0 \Rightarrow d\hat{\rho} = 0$$

SO ANY Π_{q_1} CAN BE ENDPOINT
 OF STOCHASTIC EVOLUTION

(ii) IF $[G, q] = 0$, THEN

$$dE[\langle G \rangle] = dE[\text{Tr } G \hat{\rho}]$$

$$= \text{Tr } G dE[\hat{\rho}]$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2}\eta \text{Tr } G [q, [q, \hat{\rho}]] dt$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2}\eta \text{Tr } [G, q] [q, \hat{\rho}] dt = 0$$

(iii) FOR $V = (\Delta q)^2 = \text{Tr} \hat{\rho} \hat{q}^2 - (\text{Tr} \hat{\rho} \hat{q})^2$,

$$E\left[\frac{dV}{dt}\right] = -4\eta E[V^2]$$

[PROOF USES (ii) AND $(dW_t)^2 = dt$]

(iv) INTEGRATING

$$\begin{aligned} E[V(x)] &= E[V(0)] - 4\eta \int_0^x ds E[V(s)^2] \\ &\leq E[V(0)] - 4\eta \int_0^x ds E[V(s)]^2 \end{aligned}$$

BUT $V \geq 0 \Rightarrow E[V(\infty)] = 0$

$\Rightarrow V(s)$ VANISHES AS $s \rightarrow \infty$

(APART FROM A SET OF OUTCOMES
OF MEASURE ZERO)

\Rightarrow AS $x \rightarrow \infty$, SYSTEM IS
DRIVEN TO A COORDINATE
EIGENSTATE

(v) NOW APPLY (ii) TO

$$G = \pi_f$$

$$(\pi_f, \psi) = 0 \Rightarrow dE[\langle \pi_f \rangle] = 0$$

AT TIME ZERO,

$$\begin{aligned} E[\langle \pi_f \rangle] &= \langle \pi_f \rangle = \text{Tr} \hat{\rho}(0) \pi_f \\ &= |\langle \psi(0) | \psi \rangle|^2 \end{aligned}$$

AT TIME INFINITY,

$$E[\langle \pi_f \rangle] = \sum_f P_f \langle f | \pi_f | f \rangle = P_f$$

PROBABILITY FOR OUTCOME f

$$\text{HENCE } P_f = |\langle \psi(0) | \psi \rangle|^2 \quad \text{BORN RULE}$$

USUAL MIXED STATE DENSITY MATRIX

$$\text{IS } \rho = E[\hat{\rho}] = \sum_f P_f |f\rangle \langle f|$$