

10/1
4

Harmonic oscillator

eigenstates $|n, \alpha\rangle$, $E_n = \hbar\omega(n + \frac{1}{2})$

same set of α @ each n .

start with a ground state $|0, \alpha\rangle$

$$\hat{a}^+ |0, \alpha\rangle = |1, \text{same } \alpha\rangle$$

$$\hat{a}^{+2} |0, \alpha\rangle = \hat{a}^+ |1, \alpha\rangle = \sqrt{2} |2, \alpha\rangle$$

$$(\hat{a}^+)^3 |0, \alpha\rangle = \hat{a}^+ \sqrt{2} |2, \alpha\rangle = \sqrt{2} \sqrt{3} |3, \alpha\rangle$$

$$(\hat{a}^+)^n |0, \alpha\rangle = \sqrt{n!} |n, \alpha\rangle.$$

any $|n, \alpha\rangle$ obtains from $|0, \alpha\rangle$
by acting with \hat{a}^+ n times.

Suppose no degeneracy. $\rightarrow |n\rangle, n \in \mathbb{N}$.

$$\hat{a} |n\rangle = \sqrt{n} |n-1\rangle$$

$$\langle m | \hat{a} |n\rangle = \sqrt{n} \delta_{m, n-1}$$

$$\hat{a}^+ |n\rangle = \sqrt{n+1} |n+1\rangle$$

$$\langle m | \hat{a}^+ |n\rangle = \sqrt{n+1} \delta_{m, n+1} = \sqrt{n} \delta_{n, m-1}$$

$$\hat{Q} = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2m\omega}} (\hat{a} + \hat{a}^\dagger)$$

$$\hat{P} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\hbar m\omega}} (-i\hat{a} + i\hat{a}^\dagger)$$

$$\rightarrow \left. \begin{aligned} \langle m | \hat{Q} | n \rangle &= 0 \\ \langle m | \hat{P} | n \rangle &= 0 \end{aligned} \right\} \text{unless } m = n \pm 1.$$

In any new state $|\psi\rangle$

$$\langle \psi | \hat{Q} | \psi \rangle(t), \langle \psi | \hat{P} | \psi \rangle(t)$$

oscillate harmonically
with frequency ω .

$$\begin{aligned} \diamond \text{ Let } |\psi\rangle_{t=0} &= \sum_n C_n |n\rangle \\ \rightarrow |\psi\rangle(t) &= \sum_n C_n |n\rangle e^{-i\omega t + i(n+\frac{1}{2})t} \end{aligned}$$

$$\langle \psi | \hat{Q} | \psi \rangle(t) = \sum_{n, m} C_n C_m^* \langle n | \hat{Q} | m \rangle \times e^{i\omega(m-n)t}$$

but $\langle n | \hat{Q} | m \rangle = 0$ unless $m = n \pm 1$.

$$\begin{aligned} \rightarrow \langle \psi | \hat{Q} | \psi \rangle &= e^{+i\omega t} \sum_n C_n C_{n+1}^* \langle n+1 | \hat{Q} | n \rangle \\ &\quad + \text{Complex conjugate.} \end{aligned}$$

\rightarrow no frequencies except ω

$|n_1, \dots, n_N\rangle$

wavefunctions $\psi(q_1, \dots, q_N)$

func. of q_1, \dots, q_N depends on all q_1, \dots, q_N
but not of p_1, \dots, p_N

state $|n_1, \dots, n_N\rangle$

has $\psi(q_1, \dots, q_N) = \psi_{n_1}(q_1) \psi_{n_2}(q_2) \times \dots \times \psi_{n_N}(q_N)$

Phonons

$$\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{\text{tot}} = \bigoplus_{N=0}^{\infty} \tilde{\mathcal{H}}_N$$

$\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_N$: Hilbert space of N phonons,
where N identical bosons

$\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{\text{tot}}$: Hilbert space of the
vibrating string

→ Hilbert space of every number
of phonons.

∇ state of finite energy, N is finite