

Damped harmonic oscillator

Reduced density operator as a function of time

$$\tilde{\rho}(x, y, t) = \int \int dx' dy' \mathcal{J}(x, y, t; x', y', 0) \tilde{\rho}(x', y', 0)$$

Super-propagator

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{J}(x, y, t; x', y', 0) = & \int \int \int d\mathbf{R}' d\mathbf{Q}' d\mathbf{R} \left\{ K(x, \mathbf{R}, t; x', \mathbf{R}', 0) \right. \\ & \left. \times K^*(y, \mathbf{R}, t; y', \mathbf{Q}', 0) \tilde{\rho}_R(\mathbf{R}', \mathbf{Q}', 0) \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

And if $S[x(t'), \mathbf{R}(t')] = \tilde{S}_0[x(t')] + S_I[x(t'), \mathbf{R}(t')] + S_R[\mathbf{R}(t')]$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{J}(x, y, t; x', y', 0) = & \int_{x'}^x \int_{y'}^y \mathcal{D}x(t') \mathcal{D}y(t') \exp \left\{ \frac{i}{\hbar} \tilde{S}_0[x(t')] \right\} \exp \left\{ -\frac{i}{\hbar} \tilde{S}_0[y(t')] \right\} \\ & \times \mathcal{F}[x(t'), y(t')] \end{aligned}$$

In general

$$\mathcal{J}(x, x', t; y, y', 0) = \int_{x'}^x \int_{y'}^y \mathcal{D}x(t') \mathcal{D}y(t') \exp \frac{i}{\hbar} \left\{ S_0[x(t')] - S_0[y(t')] - \int_0^t \int_0^\tau d\tau d\sigma [x(\tau) - y(\sigma)] M\gamma(\tau - \sigma) [\dot{x}(\tau) + \dot{y}(\sigma)] \right\} \times$$

$$\times \exp - \frac{1}{\hbar} \int_0^t \int_0^\tau d\tau d\sigma [x(\tau) - y(\tau)] D(\tau - \sigma) [x(\sigma) - y(\sigma)]$$

With boundary condition

$$\mathcal{J}(x, y, 0^+; x', y', 0) = \delta(x - x') \delta(y - y')$$

Under the previous choice of the spectral function the final **super-propagator** is

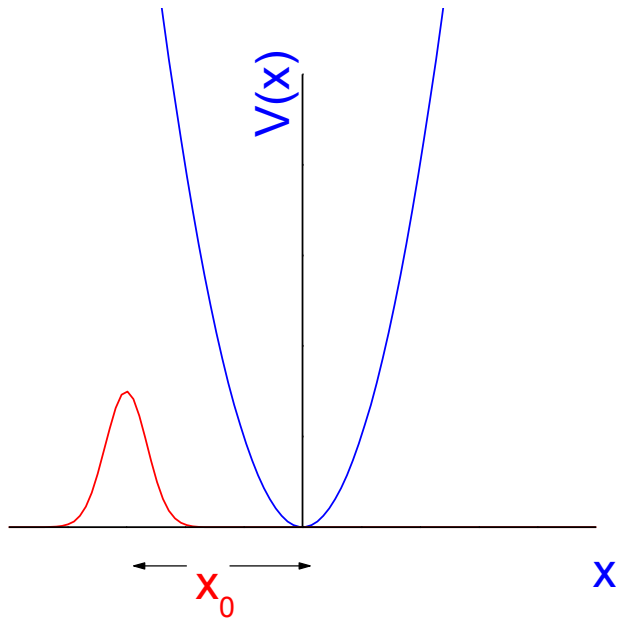
$$J(x, x', t; y, y', 0) = \int_{x'}^x \int_{y'}^y \mathcal{D}x(t') \mathcal{D}y(t') \times$$

$$\times \exp \frac{i}{\hbar} \left\{ S_0[x(t')] - S_0[y(t')] - M\gamma \int_0^t (x\dot{x} - y\dot{y} + x\dot{y} - y\dot{x}) dt' \right\} \times$$

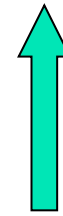
$$\times \exp - \frac{2M\gamma}{\pi\hbar} \int_0^\Omega d\omega \omega \coth \frac{\hbar\omega}{2k_B T} \int_0^t \int_0^\tau d\tau d\sigma [x(\tau) - y(\tau)] \cos\omega(\tau - \sigma) [x(\sigma) - y(\sigma)]$$

Applications

Damped harmonic oscillator



$$\psi(x') = \frac{1}{(2\pi\sigma^2)^{1/4}} \exp \frac{ipx'}{h} \exp -\frac{x'^2}{4\sigma^2}$$



Initial state

Super-
propagator

$$\mathcal{J}(x, x', t; y, y', 0) = \int_{x'}^x \int_{y'}^y \mathcal{D}x(t') \mathcal{D}y(t') \exp \frac{i}{\hbar} \tilde{S}[x(\tau), y(\tau)] \times \\ \times \exp - \frac{1}{\hbar} \phi[x(\tau), y(\tau)]$$

where

$$\tilde{S}[x(\tau), y(\tau)] = \int_0^t \tilde{L}(x, \dot{x}, y, \dot{y}) d\tau - M\gamma \int_0^t (x\dot{x} - y\dot{y}) dt'$$

$$\tilde{L}(x, \dot{x}, y, \dot{y}) = \frac{1}{2}M\dot{x}^2 - \frac{1}{2}M\dot{y}^2 - \frac{1}{2}M\omega_0^2 x^2 + \frac{1}{2}M\omega_0^2 y^2 - M\gamma x\dot{y} + M\gamma y\dot{x}$$

and

$$\phi[x(\tau), y(\tau)] = \exp - \frac{2M\gamma}{\pi\hbar} \int_0^\Omega d\nu \nu \coth \frac{\hbar\nu}{2k_B T} \times$$

$$\times \int_0^t \int_0^\tau d\tau d\sigma [x(\tau) - y(\tau)] \cos \nu(\tau - \sigma) [x(\sigma) - y(\sigma)] d\tau d\sigma$$

Stationary paths

$$\left. \frac{\delta \tilde{S}}{\delta x} \right|_{x=x_c, y=y_c} = \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial \tilde{L}}{\partial \dot{x}} - \frac{\partial \tilde{L}}{\partial x} = M\ddot{x}_c + 2M\gamma\dot{y}_c + M\omega_0^2 x_c = 0,$$

$$\left. \frac{\delta \tilde{S}}{\delta y} \right|_{x=x_c, y=y_c} = \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial \tilde{L}}{\partial \dot{y}} - \frac{\partial \tilde{L}}{\partial y} = M\ddot{y}_c + 2M\gamma\dot{x}_c + M\omega_0^2 y_c = 0$$

New variables $q(\tau) \equiv \frac{x(\tau) + y(\tau)}{2}$ and $\xi(\tau) \equiv x(\tau) - y(\tau)$

$$\ddot{q}_c + 2\gamma\dot{q}_c + \omega_0^2 q_c = 0$$

Then

$$\ddot{\xi}_c - 2\gamma\dot{\xi}_c + \omega_0^2 \xi_c = 0$$

Solutions

$$q_c(\tau) = (\sin \omega t)^{-1} \{ q e^{\gamma\tau} \sin \omega\tau + q' \sin \omega(t - \tau) \} e^{-\gamma\tau},$$

$$\xi_c(\tau) = (\sin \omega t)^{-1} \{ \xi e^{-\gamma\tau} \sin \omega\tau + \xi' \sin \omega(t - \tau) \} e^{\gamma\tau}$$

$$\omega \equiv \sqrt{\omega_0^2 - \gamma^2} \quad \text{if } \omega_0 > \gamma \quad \text{and} \quad \omega \equiv i\sqrt{\gamma^2 - \omega_0^2} \quad \text{if } \omega_0 < \gamma$$

New variations $\tilde{q}(\tau) \equiv q(\tau) - q_c(\tau)$ $\tilde{\xi}(\tau) \equiv \xi(\tau) - \xi_c(\tau)$

Super-propagator

$$\mathcal{J}(q, \xi, t; q', \xi', 0) = \exp \left\{ \frac{i}{\hbar} \tilde{S}_c \right\} \exp -\frac{1}{\hbar} \left\{ A(t)\xi^2 + B(t)\xi\xi' + C(t)\xi'^2 \right\} \times \\ \times G(q, \xi, t; q', \xi', 0)$$

with $\tilde{S}_c = K(t)[q\xi + q'\xi'] - L(t)q'\xi - N(t)q\xi' - M\gamma[q\xi - q'\xi']$

where

$$K(t) = M\omega \cot \omega t, \quad L(t) = \frac{M\omega e^{-\gamma t}}{\sin \omega t} \quad \text{and} \quad N(t) = \frac{M\omega e^{\gamma t}}{\sin \omega t}$$

and $A(t), B(t)$ and $C(t)$ obey $f(t) = \frac{M\gamma}{\pi} \int_0^\Omega d\nu \nu \coth \frac{\hbar\nu}{2k_B T} f_\nu(t)$

with
$$A_\nu(t) = \frac{e^{-2\gamma t}}{\sin^2 \omega t} \int_0^t \int_0^t \sin \omega \tau \cos \nu(\tau - \sigma) \sin \omega \sigma e^{\gamma(\tau + \sigma)} d\tau d\sigma$$

$$B_\nu(t) = \frac{2e^{-2\gamma t}}{\sin^2 \omega t} \int_0^t \int_0^t \sin \omega \tau \cos \nu(\tau - \sigma) \sin \omega(t - \sigma) e^{\gamma(\tau + \sigma)} d\tau d\sigma$$

$$C_\nu(t) = \frac{1}{\sin^2 \omega t} \int_0^t \int_0^t \sin \omega(t - \tau) \cos \nu(\tau - \sigma) \sin \omega(t - \sigma) e^{\gamma(\tau + \sigma)} d\tau d\sigma$$

Then
$$G(q, \xi, t; q', \xi', 0) = \int_0^0 \int_0^0 \mathcal{D}\tilde{q}(\tau) \mathcal{D}\tilde{\xi}(\tau) \exp \frac{i}{\hbar} \tilde{S}[\tilde{q}(\tau), \tilde{\xi}(\tau)] \times$$

$$\times \exp - \frac{1}{\hbar} \phi_T[\tilde{\xi}(\tau), \tilde{\xi}(\tau)] \exp \frac{2}{\hbar} \phi_T[\xi_c(\tau), \tilde{\xi}(\tau)]$$

where

$$\phi_T[f(\tau), g(\tau)] = \frac{M\gamma}{\pi} \int_0^\Omega d\nu \nu \coth \frac{\hbar\nu}{2k_B T} \int_0^t \int_0^t d\tau d\sigma f(\tau) \cos \nu(\tau - \sigma) g(\sigma) d\tau d\sigma$$

Prefactor of the form $N \int \delta U \exp -\frac{1}{2}U^T \mathcal{M}U \exp -\mathcal{A}U$

where $U^T = (\tilde{q}_1, \dots, \tilde{q}_N, \tilde{\xi}_1, \dots, \tilde{\xi}_N)$

and $\delta U = d\tilde{q}_1 \dots d\tilde{q}_N d\tilde{\xi}_1 \dots d\tilde{\xi}_N$

We have defined $\mathcal{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ a \end{pmatrix}$ $\mathcal{M} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & p \\ p & r \end{pmatrix}$

Using that $N \int \delta U \exp -\frac{1}{2}U^T \mathcal{M}U \exp -\mathcal{A}U = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\det \mathcal{M}}} \exp \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{A}\mathcal{M}^{-1}\mathcal{A}$

And $\mathcal{A}\mathcal{M}^{-1}\mathcal{A} = 0$, we have

$$\mathcal{J}(q, \xi, t; q', \xi', 0) = G(t) \exp \frac{i}{\hbar} \left\{ [K(t) - M\gamma]q\xi + [K(t) + M\gamma]q'\xi' - \right. \\ \left. - L(t)q'\xi - N(t)q\xi' \right\} \exp -\frac{1}{\hbar} \left\{ A(t)\xi^2 + B(t)\xi\xi' + C(t)\xi'^2 \right\}$$

Now, using
$$\tilde{\rho}(q, \xi, t) = \int \int dq' d\xi' \mathcal{J}(q, \xi, t; q', \xi', 0) \tilde{\rho}(q', \xi', 0)$$

and
$$\mathcal{J}(q, \xi, t; q', \xi', 0) = G(t) \exp \frac{i}{\hbar} \left\{ [K(t) - M\gamma]q\xi + [K(t) + M\gamma]q'\xi' - L(t)q'\xi - N(t)q\xi' \right\} \exp -\frac{1}{\hbar} \left\{ A(t)\xi^2 + B(t)\xi\xi' + C(t)\xi'^2 \right\}$$

We have for the initial condition

$$\tilde{\rho}(q', \xi', 0) = \frac{1}{(2\pi\sigma^2)^{1/2}} \exp \frac{ip\xi'}{\hbar} \exp -\frac{q'^2}{2\sigma^2} \exp -\frac{\xi'^2}{8\sigma^2}$$

the result
$$\tilde{\rho}(q, \xi, t) = G(t) \sqrt{\frac{\pi\hbar^2}{N^2(t)\sigma^2(t)}} \exp -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2(t)} (q - x_0(t))^2 \times \exp -F(t)\xi^2 \exp \frac{i}{\hbar} D(q, p, t)\xi$$

$$\tilde{\rho}(q, \xi, t) = G(t) \sqrt{\frac{\pi \hbar^2}{N^2(t) \sigma^2(t)}} \exp - \frac{1}{2\sigma^2(t)} (q - x_0(t))^2 \times \\ \exp - F(t) \xi^2 \exp \frac{i}{\hbar} D(q, p, t) \xi$$

With the following time dependent functions

$$G(t) = \frac{N(t)}{\sqrt{2\pi\hbar}}, \quad \sigma^2(t) = \frac{\sigma^2 K_1^2(t) + 2\hbar C_1^2(t)}{N^2(t)}, \quad x_0(t) = \frac{p}{N(t)}$$

$$F(t) = \frac{A(t)}{\hbar} + \frac{\sigma^2 L^2(t)}{2\hbar^2} - \frac{(\sigma^2 K_1(t) L(t) - \hbar B(t))^2}{2\hbar^2 \sigma^2(t) N^2(t)}$$

$$D(q, p, t) = K_2(t) q - \frac{(\sigma^2 K_1(t) L(t) - \hbar B(t))}{\sigma^2(t) N(t)} (q - x_0(t))$$

$$C_1(t) \equiv C(t) + \frac{\hbar}{8\sigma^2}, \quad K_1(t) \equiv K(t) + M\gamma \quad \text{and} \quad K_2(t) \equiv K(t) - M\gamma$$

General results

Time evolution

$$\tilde{\rho}(x, x, t) = \left(\frac{1}{2\pi\sigma^2(t)} \right)^{1/2} \exp -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2(t)} (x - x_0(t))^2$$

Center of the wavepacket

$$x_0(t) = \frac{p}{M\omega} \sin \omega t e^{-\gamma t}$$

Width at equilibrium

$$\sigma^2(\infty) = \frac{\hbar}{\pi} \int_0^\infty d\nu \coth \frac{\hbar\nu}{2kT} \left(\frac{1}{M} \frac{2\gamma\nu}{(\omega_0^2 - \nu^2)^2 + 4\gamma^2\nu^2} \right)$$

Fluctuation-dissipation theorem

$$\sigma^2(\infty) = \frac{\hbar}{\pi} \int_0^\infty d\nu \coth \frac{\hbar\nu}{2kT} \chi''(\nu)$$

Behavior of the width at zero temperature for any value of the damping constant

$$\sigma^2(\infty) = \frac{\hbar}{2M\omega_0} f(\alpha) \quad \left(\alpha \equiv \frac{\gamma}{\omega_0} \right)$$

$$f(\alpha) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\alpha^2}} \left(1 - \frac{2}{\pi} \tan^{-1} \frac{\alpha}{\sqrt{1-\alpha^2}} \right) & \text{se } \alpha < 1 \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{\alpha^2-1}} \frac{1}{\pi} \ln \left| \frac{\alpha + \sqrt{\alpha^2-1}}{\alpha - \sqrt{\alpha^2-1}} \right| & \text{se } \alpha > 1 \end{cases}$$

Finite damping always reduces the width

If $\omega_0 \gg \gamma$ $A_\nu(t)$, $B_\nu(t)$, and $C_\nu(t) \propto \delta(\nu - \omega_0)$

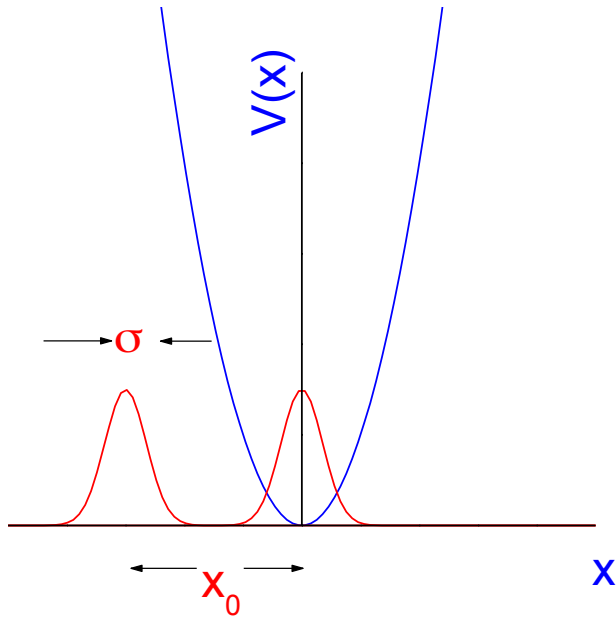
Proportionality constants

$$g^{(\alpha)}(t) \left\{ \begin{array}{l} g^{(A)}(t) = \frac{\pi}{\sin^2 \omega_0 t} \int_0^t d\tau \sin^2 \omega_0 \tau, \\ g^{(B)}(t) = \frac{2\pi}{\sin^2 \omega_0 t} \int_0^t d\tau \sin \omega_0 \tau \sin \omega_0 (t - \tau), \\ g^{(C)}(t) = \frac{\pi}{\sin^2 \omega_0 t} \int_0^t d\tau \sin^2 \omega_0 (t - \tau) \end{array} \right.$$

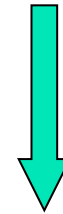
Then $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} A(t) \\ B(t) \\ C(t) \end{array} \right\} = M\gamma\omega_0 \coth \frac{\hbar\omega_0}{2k_B T} g^{(\alpha)}(t)$

And $\Phi[x(t'), y(t')] = \frac{1}{\hbar} M\gamma\omega_0 \coth \frac{\hbar\omega_0}{2k_B T} \int_0^t dt' [x(t') - y(t')]^2$

Decoherence



Initial state



$$\psi(x) = \psi_1(x) + \psi_2(x) = \tilde{\mathcal{N}} \left[\exp -\frac{x^2}{4\sigma^2} + \exp -\frac{(x + x_0)^2}{4\sigma^2} \right]$$

Study of the interference between two wave packets

Initial density operator

$$\rho(x', y', 0) = \rho_1(x', y', 0) + \rho_2(x', y', 0) + \rho_{int}(x', y', 0)$$

Time evolution

$$\tilde{\rho}(x, t) = \tilde{\rho}_1(x, t) + \tilde{\rho}_2(x, t) + \tilde{\rho}_{int}(x, t)$$

Linearity of the time evolution

$$\tilde{\rho}_{int}(x, x, t) = \int dx' dy' J(x, x, t; x', y', 0) \tilde{\rho}_{int}(x', y', 0)$$

Without damping $\rho_{int}(x, t) = 2\sqrt{\rho_1(x, t)\rho_2(x, t)} \cos \phi(x, t)$

Where $\rho_{int}(x, t = n\pi/\omega_0 + \pi/2\omega_0) = \cos\left(\frac{q_0}{\sigma^2}x\right) \exp -\frac{x^2}{\sigma^2}$

$$I = I_1 + I_2 + 2\sqrt{I_1 I_2} \cos \phi(x, t)$$

Damped case $\tilde{\rho}_{int}(x, t) = 2\sqrt{\tilde{\rho}_1(x, t)}\sqrt{\tilde{\rho}_2(x, t)}\cos\phi(x, t)\exp -f(t)$

Attenuation factor $\exp -f(t) \approx \exp -\Gamma t$ where $f(t) = \frac{q_0^2\alpha I_R(\theta)}{8\sigma^2 Q(\theta)}$

The time dependent functions are

$$q(\theta) = q_0 \left[\frac{\alpha \sin S\theta}{S} + \cos S\theta \right] \exp -\alpha\theta,$$

$$C_R(\theta, \lambda) \equiv \frac{1}{\sin^2 S\theta} \int_0^\theta \int_0^\theta \sin [S(\theta - \theta_1)] \cos [\lambda(\theta_1 - \theta_2)] \times \\ \times \sin [S(\theta - \theta_2)] \exp [\alpha(\theta_1 + \theta_2)] d\theta_1 d\theta_2,$$

$$I_R(\theta) = \frac{4}{\pi} \int_0^{\lambda_c} d\lambda \lambda C_R(\theta, \lambda) \coth(\kappa\lambda),$$

$$Q(\theta) \equiv 1 + \alpha I_R(\theta) + (\alpha + S \cot S\theta)^2 \quad \text{and}$$

$$\sigma^2(\theta) = \frac{\sigma^2 Q(\theta) \sin^2(S\theta) \exp -(2\alpha\theta)}{S^2}$$

Where we have defined

$$\alpha \equiv \frac{\gamma}{\omega_0}, \quad S \equiv \frac{\omega}{\omega_0}, \quad \theta \equiv \omega_0 t, \quad \kappa \equiv \frac{\hbar\omega_0}{2k_B T}, \quad \lambda_c \equiv \frac{\Omega}{\omega_0}$$

Attenuation factor $\exp -f(t) \approx \exp -\Gamma t$

Decoherence rate

$$\Gamma = \begin{cases} \text{high temperatures} & (\kappa \ll 1) \begin{cases} \frac{2NkT}{\hbar\omega_0} \gamma & \text{if } \gamma \ll \omega_0 \\ \frac{2NkT}{\hbar\omega_0} \frac{\omega^2}{2\gamma} & \text{if } \gamma \gg \omega_0 \end{cases} \\ \text{low temperatures} & (\kappa \gg 1) \begin{cases} N\gamma & \text{if } \gamma \ll \omega_0 \\ N \frac{\omega_0^2}{2\gamma} & \text{if } \gamma \gg \omega_0 \end{cases} \end{cases}$$

$$N \equiv x_0^2/4\sigma^2$$

is also the average number of energy quanta initially in the system

$$\kappa \equiv \hbar\omega_0/kT$$

is an inverse dimensionless temperature

Interpretation

Initial state of the universe when the environment is at zero temperature

$$|\phi_1\rangle \approx \{|\psi_0\rangle + |\psi_z\rangle\} \otimes |0\rangle$$

Final equilibrium state state of the universe

$$|\phi_f\rangle = |\psi_o\rangle \otimes |N\rangle$$

State of the universe after one quantum of energy is delivered to the bath

$$|\phi_1\rangle \approx |\tilde{\psi}_z\rangle \otimes |1\rangle + |\tilde{\psi}_0\rangle \otimes |0\rangle$$

Partial trace over the states of the environment

$$\tilde{\rho} \equiv \text{tr}_R |\phi_1\rangle\langle\phi_1| = |\tilde{\psi}_z\rangle\langle\tilde{\psi}_z| + |\tilde{\psi}_0\rangle\langle\tilde{\psi}_0|$$

Interpretation for finite temperatures

Time evolution of the occupation numbers at finite temperature

$$\dot{n}_1 = -An_1 - An(\omega_0)(n_1 - n_2)$$
$$\dot{n}_2 = An_1 + An(\omega_0)(n_1 - n_2)$$

$$E_1 - E_2 \approx \hbar\omega_0 \quad A \propto (\tau/N)^{-1} \quad n(\omega_0) = \frac{1}{\exp \frac{\hbar\omega_0}{k_B T} - 1}$$

Solution $n_1 - n_2 \propto \exp -[2n(\omega_0) + 1]At$

Decoherence time $\tau_d \propto \frac{1}{2n(\omega_0) + 1} \frac{\tau}{N}$

which at high temperatures is

$$\tau_d \approx \frac{\hbar\omega_0}{2Nk_B T} \tau$$

Pointer basis

Pointer states $|P_i\rangle$

Environment states $\{|E_i^{(n)}\rangle\}$

Observable state to be measured $|\psi\rangle = \sum_i a_i |\varphi_i\rangle$ $\hat{O}|\varphi_i\rangle = \mathcal{O}_i|\varphi_i\rangle$

Initial apparatus state $|A_0\rangle = |P_0\rangle \otimes |E_0\rangle$

where $|E_0\rangle = |E_0^{(1)}\rangle \otimes |E_0^{(2)}\rangle \otimes \dots$

Then $|\Psi\rangle = |\psi\rangle \otimes |P_0\rangle \otimes |E_0\rangle = \sum_i a_i (|\varphi_i\rangle \otimes |P_0\rangle \otimes |E_0\rangle)$

evolves to $|\Psi(t)\rangle = \sum_i a_i (|\varphi_i\rangle \otimes |P_i\rangle \otimes |E_i\rangle)$

and $\rho_{SP} \equiv \text{tr}_R \rho = \sum_i |a_i|^2 |\varphi_i\rangle\langle\varphi_i| \otimes |P_i\rangle\langle P_i|$

Internal decoherence

Estimate from the master equation $\tau_D \approx \gamma^{-1} \left(\frac{\lambda_T}{\Delta x} \right)^2$ where

$\lambda_T = \hbar / \sqrt{2Mk_B T}$ is the de Broglie thermal wavelength

But the exact solution gives $\tau_D = \frac{1}{\gamma} \left(\frac{\sigma}{\xi} \right)^2 \left(\exp \frac{\hbar\omega_0}{k_B T} - 1 \right)$

$$= \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\gamma} \frac{\hbar\omega_0}{k_B T} \left(\frac{\sigma}{\xi} \right)^2 & \text{if } k_B T \gg \hbar\omega_0 \\ \frac{1}{\gamma} \left(\frac{\sigma}{\xi} \right)^2 \exp \frac{\hbar\omega_0}{k_B T} & \text{if } k_B T \ll \hbar\omega_0. \end{cases}$$

which depends on the initial preparation off-diagonal distance ξ

For the purity $\text{Tr} \tilde{\rho}^2(x, y, t) \approx 1 - 4 \left(\exp \frac{\hbar\omega_0}{k_B T} - 1 \right)^{-1} \gamma t$

and then $\tau_c = \left(\exp \frac{\hbar\omega_0}{k_B T} - 1 \right) / 4\gamma$