Quantum mechanics and the sanctity of linearity

Lajos Diósi

Wigner Center, Budapest

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1. L-ity of SE is different from the approximate L-ity in other theories
2. Peaceful coexistence
3. L-ity of SE follows from its standard statistical interpretation
4. NLSE invalidates statistical interpretation, requests new one
5. NLSE exposes many fatal symptomes
6. Many NLSEs were proposed over 60-80 years
7. Persistent NLSE: Schrödinger-Newton Equation
8. NL quantum mechanics are not necessarily evil if we are aware of all their fundamental anomalies that we must rather overcome than ignore

L-ity of SE is different from the approximate L-ity in other theories

- ...
- hydrodynamics: obvious NL, with L regimes (cf. sound waves)
- Maxwell ED: perfect L; QED: NL corrections, $\gamma - \gamma$ interaction
- ...

L-ity of quantum theory is different (‘fundamental‘).
Why?
Because it comes from classical statistics.

Peaceful coexistence ...

of quantum mechanics and special relativity (Shimony)

Despite these:

- apparent action-at-a-distance in EPR situation
- quantum non-locality in Bell formulation

Real physics remains safe:

- no real action-at-a-distance (AAD)
- no faster-than-light (FTL) communication

Reason: linear structure of quantum mechanics
Any non-linear modification,

$$i\hbar\frac{d\psi}{dt}=\hat{H}\psi+\hat{V}_{\psi}\psi$$

allows for FTL communication (Gisin) and allows for further absurdities.

L-ity of SE follows from its standard statistical interpretation

- Suppose any **dynamics** $\mathcal{M}$, not necessarily linear:

$$\hat{\rho}^f = \mathcal{M}[\hat{\rho}^i]$$

- Consider statistical **mixing** of $\hat{\rho}_1, \hat{\rho}_2$ with weights $\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 = 1$:

$$\hat{\rho} = \lambda_1 \hat{\rho}_1 + \lambda_2 \hat{\rho}_2$$

In von Neumann standard theory

mixing and dynamics are interchangeable:

$$\mathcal{M}[\lambda_1 \hat{\rho}_1 + \lambda_2 \hat{\rho}_2] = \lambda_1 \mathcal{M}[\hat{\rho}_1] + \lambda_2 \mathcal{M}[\hat{\rho}_2]$$

Recognize the condition of $\mathcal{M}$'s linearity!

- Interchangeability excludes non-linear Schrödinger equations
- Without interchangeability statistical interpretation collapses

(D.: *A Short Course in Quantum Information Theory*, Springer, 2007, 2011)

NLSE invalidates statistical interpretation, requests new one

?

i.e.: yet to be proposed

NLSE exposes many fatal symptomes

- superluminality (Jánossy 1952, Kibble, Gisin, Polchinski, ...)
- action-at-a-distance (Bialynicki-Birula&Mycielski 1976, ...)
- non-standard (NL) observables (?, ..., D. 1986, ..., Weinberg)
- violation of Second Law of thermodynamics (Peres 1989)
- inapplicability for mixed states (?, ..., D. 2016)
- ...

Above all: fall of statistical interpretation (Mielnik 1974, ..., D. 2007)

Many NLSEs were proposed over 60-80 years

Approximate (mean-field) theories:

- Hartree-Fock
- semiclassical Einstein Eq. ($\hat{T}_{ik} \approx \langle \hat{T}_{ik} \rangle$)

$\Psi(x)$ is not wave-function:

- E.m. waves in medium, fibre, etc.
- Gross-Pitaevski equation

Fundamental:

- Stop wave function expansion, Jánossy eq. 1952
- Same, scaled by G: Schrödinger-Newton Eq. (D. 1984, Penrose)
- Just why not NLSE, Weinberg eq. 1989

Persistent NLSE: Schrödinger-Newton Equation

Single-body SNE for c.o.m. free motion of "large" mass M:

$$i\hbar\frac{d\psi}{dt} = \frac{\hat{p}^2}{2M}\psi + M\Phi_\psi(\hat{x})\psi, \qquad \Phi_\psi(\hat{x}) = -GM\int\frac{|\psi(r)|^2}{|\hat{x}-r|}d^3r$$

May be fundamental (D., Penrose)

- Stationary solution: single soliton $\bigcirc$ of $\emptyset \sim (\hbar^2/GM^3)$
- Schrödinger Cat state: two-soliton $\psi_\pm = ⓛ \pm ⓡ$

By mean-field $\Phi_\psi(\hat{x})$, parts in $\psi_\pm$ attract each other, like, e.g.:

ⓛ ⓡ $\Longrightarrow$ ⓛⓡ $\Longrightarrow$ $\bigcirc$ $\Longrightarrow$ ⓡⓛ $\Longrightarrow$ ⓡ ⓛ $\Longrightarrow$ ⓡⓛ $\Longrightarrow \dots$

Initially orthogonal $\psi_\pm = ⓛ \pm ⓡ$ will overlap at $\pi/4, 3\pi/4, \dots$.

NL quantum mechanics are not necessarily evil if we are aware of all their fundamental anomalies that we must rather overcome than ignore

Weinberg became less tolerant (in *Dreams of a Final Theory*): This theoretical failure to find a plausible alternative to quantum mechanics, even more than the precise experimental verification of linearity, suggests to me that quantum mechanics is the way it is because any small change in quantum mechanics would lead to logical absurdities. If this is true, quantum mechanics may be a permanent part of physics. Indeed, quantum mechanics may survive not merely as an approximation to a deeper truth, in the way that Newton's theory of gravitation survives as an approximation to Einstein's general theory of relativity, but as a precisely valid feature of the final theory.