

Contents

Preface	vii
1. A Brutal Fact of Life	1
1.1 Causality and determinism	1
1.2 Bell's inequality: No hidden determinism	4
1.3 Remarks on terminology	8
2. Kinematics: How Quantum Systems are Described	11
2.1 Stern–Gerlach experiment	11
2.2 Successive Stern–Gerlach measurements	14
2.3 Order matters	17
2.4 Mathematization	17
2.5 Probabilities and probability amplitudes	23
2.6 Quantum Zeno effect	32
2.7 Kets and bras	35
2.8 Brackets, bra-kets, and ket-bras	38
2.9 Pauli operators, Pauli matrices	41
2.10 Functions of Pauli operators	44
2.11 Eigenvalues, eigenkets, eigenbras	46
2.12 Wave-particle duality	51
2.13 Expectation value	51
2.14 Trace	54
2.15 Statistical operator	56
2.16 Mixtures and blends	60
2.17 Nonselective measurement	61
2.18 Entangled atom pairs	63

2.19	State reduction	68
2.20	Measurements with more than two outcomes	70
2.21	Unitary operators	75
2.22	Hermitian operators	78
3.	Dynamics: How Quantum Systems Evolve	81
3.1	Schrödinger equation	81
3.2	Heisenberg equation	85
3.3	Equivalent Hamilton operators	87
3.4	von Neumann equation	88
3.5	Example: Larmor precession	89
3.6	Time-dependent probability amplitudes	93
3.7	Schrödinger equation for probability amplitudes	94
3.8	Time-independent Schrödinger equation	98
3.9	Example: Two magnetic silver atoms	101
4.	Motion along the x Axis	109
4.1	Kets, bras, wave functions	109
4.2	Position operator	114
4.3	Momentum operator	117
4.4	Heisenberg's commutation relation	119
4.5	Position-momentum transformation function	119
4.6	Expectation values	122
4.7	Uncertainty relation	125
4.8	State of minimum uncertainty	129
4.9	Time dependence	132
4.10	Excursion into classical mechanics	132
4.11	Hamilton operator, Schrödinger equation	136
4.12	Time transformation function	139
5.	Elementary Examples	141
5.1	Force-free motion	141
5.1.1	Time-transformation functions	141
5.1.2	"Spreading" of the wave function	143
5.1.3	Long-time and short-time behavior	149
5.1.4	Interlude: General position-dependent force	155
5.1.5	Energy eigenstates	157
5.2	Constant force	160

5.2.1	Energy eigenstates	160
5.2.2	Limit of no force	162
5.3	Harmonic oscillator	165
5.3.1	Energy eigenstates: Power-series method	165
5.3.2	Energy eigenstates: Ladder-operator approach	170
5.3.3	Hermite polynomials	176
5.3.4	Infinite matrices	177
5.4	Delta potential	181
5.4.1	Bound state	181
5.4.2	Scattering states	186
5.5	Square-well potential	191
5.5.1	Bound states	191
5.5.2	Delta potential as a limit	196
5.5.3	Scattering states. Tunneling	197
	Index	203