

Gauge invariance in Schrödinger's equation

$$i\hbar\partial_t\psi = \frac{1}{2m} [\hat{\vec{p}} - q\vec{A}]^2\psi + q\varphi(\vec{r})\psi$$

$$\text{with } \vec{A}' = \vec{A} + \vec{\nabla}\Lambda$$

$$\psi' = \psi e^{iq\Lambda/\hbar}$$

$$i\hbar\partial_t\psi' = \frac{1}{2m} [\hat{\vec{p}} - q\vec{A}']^2\psi' + q\varphi'(\vec{r})\psi'$$

$$\psi' = e^{iq\Lambda/\hbar}\psi$$

Proof of the equivalence:

Let's start with

$$i\hbar\partial_t\psi' = i\hbar\partial_t(e^{iq\Lambda/\hbar}\psi)$$

$$= i\hbar(iq/\hbar\partial_t\Lambda)e^{iq\Lambda/\hbar}\psi + i\hbar e^{iq\Lambda/\hbar}\partial_t\psi$$

$$= e^{iq\Lambda/\hbar}[-q\partial_t\Lambda + i\hbar\partial_t]\psi$$

$$\text{Lemma: } [\hat{\vec{p}} - q\vec{A}']\psi' = [-i\hbar\vec{\nabla} - q\vec{A}']e^{iq\Lambda/\hbar}\psi$$

$$= -i\hbar\left(\frac{iq}{\hbar}\vec{\nabla}\Lambda\right)e^{iq\Lambda/\hbar}\psi - i\hbar e^{iq\Lambda/\hbar}\vec{\nabla}\psi - q\vec{A}'e^{iq\Lambda/\hbar}\psi$$

$$= e^{iq\Lambda/\hbar}[-i\hbar\vec{\nabla} - q\vec{A}' + q\vec{\nabla}\Lambda]\psi$$

$$= e^{iq\Lambda/\hbar}[\hat{\vec{p}} - q\vec{A}]\psi$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{So we get } \frac{1}{2m} (\hat{\vec{p}} - q\vec{A}')^2 e^{iq\Lambda/\hbar}\psi &= \frac{1}{2m} (\hat{\vec{p}} - q\vec{A}') \cdot e^{iq\Lambda/\hbar} (\hat{\vec{p}} - q\vec{A})\psi \\ &= e^{iq\Lambda/\hbar} \cdot \frac{1}{2m} (\hat{\vec{p}} - q\vec{A})^2 \psi\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Thus: } i\hbar\partial_t\psi' = \frac{1}{2m} (\hat{\vec{p}} - q\vec{A}')^2\psi' + q\varphi'(\vec{r})\psi'$$

$$\Leftrightarrow e^{iq\Lambda/\hbar}[-q\partial_t\Lambda + i\hbar\partial_t]\psi = e^{iq\Lambda/\hbar} \left[\frac{1}{2m} (\hat{\vec{p}} - q\vec{A})^2\psi + q\varphi\psi - q\partial_t\Lambda\psi \right]$$

$$\Leftrightarrow i\hbar\partial_t\psi = \frac{1}{2m} (\hat{\vec{p}} - q\vec{A})^2\psi + q\varphi\psi \quad \square$$