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Non-Hermitian and Zeno limit of the quantum first detection problem

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The classical first-passage theory for random walks is generalized to quantum systems by using repeated attempts with a fixed frequency $1/\tau$ to find the system in the detection state $|\psi_d\rangle$. The first successful of these attempts defines the time $T = N\tau$ of first *detected* arrival. Here, the Zeno limit $\tau \rightarrow 0$ of diverging detection frequency is investigated. The repeated detection setup is compared with a non-Hermitian Schrödinger equation. Using an electrostatic analogy we can determine all absorption modes in the Zeno limit and find the pdf as well as all moments of T for systems with a discrete energy spectrum. The pdf has a scaling form in τ . Applying known results from the repeated detection setup to the non-Hermitian equation shows that the mean dissipation time in the latter system is quantized.

Summary

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