

This paper deals with momentum representation and position representation and describe both variants parallel.

A more elaborated text you find in

[https://inst.eecs.berkeley.edu/~cs191/fa07/lectures/lecture13\\_fa07.pdf](https://inst.eecs.berkeley.edu/~cs191/fa07/lectures/lecture13_fa07.pdf)

Hope I can help you with learning quantum mechanics.

Note:  $|\psi\rangle$  is a state (a finite or infinite vector, a Hilbert-space of functions, ...)

Quantum mechanics forbids a wave function  $\psi(x, p)$  because  $x$  and  $p$  cannot be known precisely simultaneously. For this reason, we can only work with wave functions  $\psi(x)$  and  $\tilde{\psi}(p)$ .

All of these are eigenfunctions with eigenvalue  $x$  or  $p$ . They contain the same information about the state  $|\psi\rangle$ .

Momentum	Position
$ p\rangle \quad \forall p \in \mathbb{R}$ $ p\rangle$ is a <b>momentum</b> state in an infinite dimensional vector space, the particle with momentum $p$ . It is a basis of the space of states $ \psi\rangle$ . The dimension of $ \psi\rangle$ is infinite. $\tilde{\psi}(p) = \langle p \psi\rangle$ $\tilde{\psi}(p)$ is an eigenfunction with eigenvalue $p$ .	$ x\rangle \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}$ $ x\rangle$ is a <b>position</b> state in an infinite dimensional vector space, the particle with position $x$ . It is a basis of the space of states $ \psi\rangle$ . The dimension of $ \psi\rangle$ is infinite. $\psi(x) = \langle x \psi\rangle$ $\psi(x)$ is an eigenfunction with eigenvalue $x$ .
Because $ p\rangle$ is an element of an infinite dimensional vector space, we have:  $a p\rangle \neq  ap\rangle, \quad a \in \mathbb{R}, a \neq 1$ $- p\rangle \neq  -p\rangle, \quad p \neq 0$ $ p_1 + p_2\rangle \neq  p_1\rangle +  p_2\rangle$ Note: $ 0\rangle$ is the particle with momentum zero, not a zero vector.	Because $ x\rangle$ is an element of an infinite dimensional vector space, we have:  $a x\rangle \neq  ax\rangle, \quad a \in \mathbb{R}, a \neq 1$ $- x\rangle \neq  -x\rangle, \quad x \neq 0$ $ x_1 + x_2\rangle \neq  x_1\rangle +  x_2\rangle$ Note: $ 0\rangle$ is the particle at position zero, not a zero vector.
The inner product:  $\langle p_1 p_2\rangle := \delta(p_2 - p_1)$ Different momenta are orthogonal to each other.	The inner product:  $\langle x_1 x_2\rangle := \delta(x_2 - x_1)$ Different positions are orthogonal to each other.
The norm of a <b>momentum</b> state is infinite: $\langle p p\rangle := \delta(0) = \infty$	The norm of a <b>position</b> state is infinite: $\langle x x\rangle := \delta(0) = \infty$
Completeness relation: $\mathbf{1} = \int dp  p_1\rangle\langle p_1 $ $\mathbf{1} p_2\rangle = \int dp  p_1\rangle\langle p_1 p_2\rangle = \int dp  p_1\rangle \delta(p_1 - p_2) =  p_2\rangle$	Completeness relation: $\mathbf{1} = \int dx  x_1\rangle\langle x_1 $ $\mathbf{1} x_2\rangle = \int dx  x_1\rangle\langle x_1 x_2\rangle = \int dx  x_1\rangle \delta(x_1 - x_2) =  x_2\rangle$
The momentum operator $\hat{p}$ and position operator $\hat{x}$ are defined by their action on <b>momentum</b> states.	The position operator $\hat{x}$ and momentum operator $\hat{p}$ are defined by their action on <b>position</b> states.

<p>The eigen-equation for the operator <math>\hat{p}</math>:</p> $\hat{p} p\rangle := p p\rangle$ <p>In terms of wave functions:</p> $\hat{p}\psi_p(p) = p\psi_p(p)$ <p>Result:</p> $\psi_p(p) = \delta(p - p_0)$ <p>The eigen-equation for the operator <math>\hat{x}</math>:</p> $\hat{x} p\rangle := -i\hbar \frac{d}{dp}  p\rangle = x p\rangle$ <p>In terms of wave-functions:</p> $\hat{x}\psi_x(p) = -i\hbar \frac{d}{dp} \psi_x(p) = x\psi_x(p)$ <p>Result of the differential equation:</p> $\psi_x(p) = \frac{e^{\frac{ipx}{\hbar}}}{\sqrt{2\pi\hbar}}$ <p>Note: <math>\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\hbar}}</math> is a normalizing factor.</p> <p>Note: <math>\psi_x(p)</math> and <math>\psi_p(p)</math> are functions of <math>p</math>. We labelled them with <math>x</math> and <math>p</math> to make clear that they belong to different eigen-equations (different bases).</p>	<p>The eigen-equation for the operator <math>\hat{x}</math>:</p> $\hat{x} x\rangle := x x\rangle$ <p>In terms of wave functions:</p> $\hat{x}\psi_x(x) = x\psi_x(x)$ <p>Result:</p> $\psi_x(x) = \delta(x - x_0)$ <p>The eigen-equation for the operator <math>\hat{p}</math>:</p> $\hat{p} x\rangle := -i\hbar \frac{d}{dx}  x\rangle = p x\rangle$ <p>In terms of wave-functions:</p> $\hat{p}\psi_p(x) = -i\hbar \frac{d}{dx} \psi_p(x) = p\psi_p(x)$ <p>Result of the differential equation:</p> $\psi_p(x) = \frac{e^{\frac{ipx}{\hbar}}}{\sqrt{2\pi\hbar}}$ <p>Note: <math>\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\hbar}}</math> is a normalizing factor.</p> <p>Note: <math>\psi_p(x)</math> and <math>\psi_x(x)</math> are functions of <math>x</math>. We labelled them with <math>p</math> and <math>x</math> to make clear that they belong to different eigen-equations (different bases).</p>
<p>The operator <math>\hat{x}</math> is Hermitian:</p> $-i\hbar \frac{d}{dp} = i\hbar \frac{d}{dp}$ <p><i>A proof you find at the end of this paper</i></p>	<p>The operator <math>\hat{p}</math> is Hermitian:</p> $-i\hbar \frac{d}{dx} = i\hbar \frac{d}{dx}$ <p><i>A proof you find at the end of this paper</i></p>
<p>The operator <math>\hat{p}</math> is Hermitian:</p> $\hat{p}^\dagger = \hat{p}$ <p>With this we get:</p> $\langle p \hat{p} = \langle p $	<p>The operator <math>\hat{x}</math> is Hermitian:</p> $\hat{x}^\dagger = \hat{x}$ <p>With this we get:</p> $\langle x \hat{x} = \langle x $
<p>The wave function associated with a state we get by taking the inner product of a <b>momentum</b> state <math> p\rangle</math> with the given state <math> \psi\rangle</math>:</p> $\tilde{\psi}(p) := \langle p \psi\rangle \in \mathbb{C}$ <p><math>\langle p \psi\rangle</math> is a complex number that depends on the value of <math>p</math>, thus a function of <math>p</math>.</p>	<p>The wave function associated with a state we get by taking the inner product of a <b>position</b> state <math> x\rangle</math> with the given state <math> \psi\rangle</math>:</p> $\psi(x) := \langle x \psi\rangle \in \mathbb{C}$ <p><math>\langle x \psi\rangle</math> is a complex number that depends on the value of <math>x</math>, thus a function of <math>x</math>.</p>
<p>Any state can be written as a superposition of <b>momentum</b> eigenstates:</p> $ \psi\rangle = \mathbf{1} \psi\rangle = \int dp  p\rangle \langle p \psi\rangle = \int dp  p\rangle \tilde{\psi}(p)$ <p><math>\tilde{\psi}(p)</math> is the component of <math>\tilde{\psi}</math> along the state <math> p\rangle</math>.</p>	<p>Any state can be written as a superposition of <b>position</b> eigenstates:</p> $ \psi\rangle = \mathbf{1} \psi\rangle = \int dx  x\rangle \langle x \psi\rangle = \int dx  x\rangle \psi(x)$ <p><math>\psi(x)</math> is the component of <math>\psi</math> along the state <math> x\rangle</math>.</p>

<p>The overlap of states (the projection) written in <b>momentum</b> space:</p> $\begin{aligned}\langle \theta   \psi \rangle &= \langle \theta   \mathbf{1}   \psi \rangle = \\ &\int dp \langle \theta   p \rangle \langle p   \psi \rangle = \\ &\int dp \langle p   \theta^* \rangle \langle p   \psi \rangle = \\ &\int dp \tilde{\theta}^*(p) \tilde{\psi}(p)\end{aligned}$	<p>The overlap of states (the projection) written in <b>position</b> space:</p> $\begin{aligned}\langle \theta   \psi \rangle &= \langle \theta   \mathbf{1}   \psi \rangle = \\ &\int dx \langle \theta   x \rangle \langle x   \psi \rangle = \\ &\int dx \langle x   \theta^* \rangle \langle x   \psi \rangle = \\ &\int dx \theta^*(x) \psi(x)\end{aligned}$
<p>Matrix elements of <math>\hat{p}</math>:</p> $\begin{aligned}\langle \theta   \hat{p}   \psi \rangle &= \langle \theta   \hat{p} \mathbf{1}   \psi \rangle = \\ &\int dp \langle \theta   \hat{p}   p \rangle \langle p   \psi \rangle = \\ &\int dp \langle \theta   p \rangle p \langle p   \psi \rangle = \\ &\int dp \langle p   \theta^* \rangle p \langle p   \psi \rangle = \\ &\int dp \tilde{\theta}^*(p) p \tilde{\psi}(p)\end{aligned}$	<p>Matrix elements of <math>\hat{x}</math>:</p> $\begin{aligned}\langle \theta   \hat{x}   \psi \rangle &= \langle \theta   \hat{x} \mathbf{1}   \psi \rangle = \\ &\int dx \langle \theta   \hat{x}   x \rangle \langle x   \psi \rangle = \\ &\int dx \langle \theta   x \rangle x \langle x   \psi \rangle = \\ &\int dx \langle x   \theta^* \rangle x \langle x   \psi \rangle = \\ &\int dx \theta^*(x) x \psi(x)\end{aligned}$
<p>The overlap <math>\langle x   p \rangle</math> for a particle with momentum <math>p</math>:</p> $\langle x   p \rangle = p(x) = \frac{e^{\frac{ipx}{\hbar}}}{\sqrt{2\pi\hbar}}$	<p>The overlap <math>\langle p   x \rangle</math> for a particle with position <math>x</math>:</p> $\langle p   x \rangle = x(p) = \frac{e^{-\frac{ipx}{\hbar}}}{\sqrt{2\pi\hbar}}$
<p>Note: <math>\langle x   p \rangle</math> and <math>\langle p   x \rangle</math> differ by a minus sign in the exponent.</p>	
<p><math>\tilde{\psi}(p)</math> is the Fourier transform of <math>\psi(x)</math>:</p> $\tilde{\psi}(p) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\hbar}} \int dx e^{-\frac{ipx}{\hbar}} \psi(x)$ <p>The wave function in the momentum representation <math>\tilde{\psi}(p)</math> is the Fourier transform of the wave function in the position representation <math>\psi(x)</math>.</p>	<p><math>\psi(x)</math> is the Fourier transform of <math>\tilde{\psi}(p)</math>:</p> $\psi(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\hbar}} \int dp e^{\frac{ipx}{\hbar}} \tilde{\psi}(p)$ <p>The wave function in the position representation <math>\psi(x)</math> is the Fourier transform of the wave function in the momentum representation <math>\tilde{\psi}(p)</math>.</p>
<p>We evaluate <math>\langle p   \hat{x}   \psi \rangle</math>:</p> $\begin{aligned}\langle p   \hat{x}   \psi \rangle &= \int dx \langle p   x \rangle \langle x   \hat{x}   \psi \rangle \\ &= \int dx \langle p   x \rangle \langle x   x   \psi \rangle \\ &= \int dx \langle p   x \rangle x \psi(x) \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\hbar}} \int dx e^{-\frac{ipx}{\hbar}} x \psi(x) \\ &= i\hbar \left( \frac{-i}{\hbar} \right) \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\hbar}} \int dx e^{-\frac{ipx}{\hbar}} x \psi(x) \\ &= i\hbar \frac{d}{dp} \tilde{\psi}(p)\end{aligned}$	<p>We evaluate <math>\langle x   \hat{p}   \psi \rangle</math>:</p> $\begin{aligned}\langle x   \hat{p}   \psi \rangle &= \int dp \langle x   p \rangle \langle p   \hat{p}   \psi \rangle \\ &= \int dp \langle x   p \rangle \langle p   p   \psi \rangle \\ &= \int dp (p \langle x   p \rangle) \langle p   \psi \rangle \\ &= \int dp \left( \frac{\hbar}{i} \frac{d}{dx} \langle x   p \rangle \right) \langle p   \psi \rangle \\ &= \frac{\hbar}{i} \frac{d}{dx} \int dp \langle x   p \rangle \langle p   \psi \rangle = \\ &= \frac{\hbar}{i} \frac{d}{dx} \langle x   \psi \rangle = -i\hbar \frac{d}{dx} \psi(x)\end{aligned}$

The operator  $\hat{p} = -i\hbar \frac{d}{dx}$  is Hermitian. The proof for the operator  $\hat{x}$  is analog.

We must show:

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi^* \hat{p} \phi dx = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \phi \hat{p}^* \psi^* dx$$

We begin:

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi^* \hat{p} \phi dx = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi^* \left( -i\hbar \frac{d}{dx} \right) \phi dx = -i\hbar \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi^* d\phi =;$$

We use integration by parts:

$$\int_a^b u dv = [uv]_a^b - \int_a^b v du$$

We proceed:

$$-i\hbar \left( [\psi^* \phi]_{-\infty}^{\infty} - \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \phi d\psi^* \right) =;$$

Note: the wave functions vanish in infinity, so  $[\psi^* \phi]_{-\infty}^{\infty}$  becomes zero.

$$\begin{aligned} &= i\hbar \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \phi d\psi^* = i\hbar \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \phi \frac{d\psi^*}{dx} dx = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \phi \left( i\hbar \frac{d\psi^*}{dx} \right) dx = \\ &\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \phi \left( i\hbar \frac{d}{dx} \right) \psi^* dx = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \phi \hat{p}^* \psi^* dx \end{aligned}$$

Result:

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi^* \hat{p} \phi dx = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \phi \hat{p}^* \psi^* dx$$

Note: this works only with functions that are normalizable.

The proof can be found at:

<https://www.colby.edu/chemistry/PChem/notes/MomentumHermitian.pdf>