

Trick to calculate: start with diffusion equation

$$x^2 \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} x^2 p = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^2 p^2 dx \right) \quad \left| \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx \right.$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle x^2 \rangle = D \left\{ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} [x^2 p] dx - \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} 2x p \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} dx \right\} = D \left\{ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} [2x^2 p] dx + \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} [2p^2] dx \right\} = 2D \langle x^2 \rangle$$

Fick's derivation of the diffusion equation:

(1) Continuity equation: Given a probability density  $P(x, t)$  with  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} P(x, t) dx = 1$ , and the probability flux  $\bar{S}(x, t)$ :

$$\oint_{\partial V} \bar{S}(x, t) d\bar{A} = - \frac{d}{dt} \int_V P(x, t) dV = - \frac{d}{dt} \langle x \rangle$$

where  $\langle x \rangle$  is the survival probability. With the divergence theorem (Gauss' theorem):

$$\oint_{\partial V} \bar{S}(x, t) d\bar{A} = \int_V \nabla \cdot \bar{S}(x, t) dV$$

We obtain the integral form of the continuity equation:

$$\int_V \nabla \cdot \bar{S}(x, t) dV = - \frac{d}{dt} \int_V P(x, t) dV = - \frac{d}{dt} \int_V P(x, t) dV$$

This relation is valid  $\forall (V, \partial V) \rightarrow$  differential form:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} P(x, t) = - \nabla \cdot \bar{S}(x, t) = - \text{div } \bar{S}(x, t). \text{ continuity equation}$$

(2) Fick's first law:

$$\bar{S} = - D \nabla P(x, t)$$

the flux is proportional to the gradient of the probability density function  $P$ .

