

a) By definition, $\rho = \sum_i w_i |\alpha^{(i)}\rangle \langle \alpha^{(i)}|$ (3.4.8).

Sakurai 3-11 | Thus $\rho(t) = \sum_i w_i |\alpha^{(i)}(t)\rangle \langle \alpha^{(i)}(t)|$ (note w_i doesn't change w/ time).

→ Fact: $U(t, t_0) |\alpha^{(i)}(t_0)\rangle = |\alpha^{(i)}(t)\rangle$ (that's what time evolution is).

Thus: $\langle \alpha^{(i)}(t_0) | U^\dagger(t, t_0) = \langle \alpha^{(i)}(t) |$

Plug in the facts, and get: $\rho(t) = \sum_i w_i (U(t, t_0) |\alpha^{(i)}(t_0)\rangle \langle \alpha^{(i)}(t_0) | U^\dagger(t, t_0))$

But U and U^\dagger don't depend on i , so

$$\rho(t) = U(t, t_0) \left(\sum_i w_i |\alpha^{(i)}(t_0)\rangle \langle \alpha^{(i)}(t_0)| \right) U^\dagger(t, t_0) = U(t, t_0) \rho(t_0) U^\dagger(t, t_0) \quad \square$$

b) given: $\rho(0) = |\alpha^{(i)}(0)\rangle \langle \alpha^{(i)}(0)|$. By pt. a), $\rho(t) = U(t, 0) |\alpha^{(i)}(0)\rangle \langle \alpha^{(i)}(0) | U^\dagger(t, 0)$

$$\Rightarrow \rho(t) = |\alpha^{(i)}(t)\rangle \langle \alpha^{(i)}(t)|$$

$$\text{Then } \rho^2(t) = |\alpha^{(i)}(t)\rangle \langle \alpha^{(i)}(t) | \alpha^{(i)}(t)\rangle \langle \alpha^{(i)}(t) | = |\alpha^{(i)}(t)\rangle \langle \alpha^{(i)}(t) | = \rho(t).$$

By 3.4.13, if $\rho = \rho^2$, then the ensemble is pure, so this can never evolve into a mixed state. \square