

Prof. Dr. Hans Peter Büchler
Institute for Theoretical Physics III, University of Stuttgart

November 08th, 2018
 WS 2018/19

Problem 1: Stark effect for a harmonic oscillator (Written)

Learning objective

The goal of this assignment is to apply a static perturbation (as derived in the lecture) up to second order for a simple setup. This setup has the special property that an exact solution exists and therefore the perturbation theory can be tested by a comparison with the exact solution.

The Hamiltonian of a one-dimensional harmonic oscillator within a homogeneous electric field E is given by

$$H = \frac{1}{2} (P^2 + Q^2) + eEQ, \quad (1)$$

where the Hamiltonian is dimensionless. Consider the second term of the Hamiltonian as a perturbation to the free oscillator scenario, such that $H_1 = Q$, with $\lambda = eE$.

- Calculate the perturbed eigenfunctions and energy eigenvalues up to second order in λ .
- Compare the result of perturbation theory with the exact solution for the energy of the problem.

Problem 2: Fine structure of the hydrogen atom (Oral)

Learning objective

Here, we can apply the previously studied perturbation theory to derive the leading order energy corrections to the hydrogen atom due to spin-orbit coupling. This problem combines both topics, perturbation theory and addition of angular momenta, in one task.

Calculate the energy corrections to the $2p$ levels of the hydrogen atom (with the principal quantum number $n = 2$ and orbital angular momentum $\ell = 1$) arising from the spin-orbit coupling within the first order of perturbation theory (See exercise sheet 3).

Hint: For the radial part of the matrix elements use $\langle \psi_{2,1,m} | 1/r^3 | \psi_{2,1,m} \rangle = 1/24a_0^3$, where $\psi_{2,1,m}$ is an eigenfunction of H_0 , and $a_0 = \hbar^2/m_e e^2$ is the Bohr radius.

Problem 3: Perturbation in the two level system (Oral)

Learning objective

This exercise is another benchmark of the perturbation theory. Here you will practice the special case of a

degenerated system and compare it to the exact theory in the end.

The unperturbed Hamiltonian of a two level system in a suitable basis reads

$$H_0 = \begin{pmatrix} E_+ & 0 \\ 0 & E_- \end{pmatrix}$$

Now, take the perturbed Hamiltonian

$$H = H_0 + \lambda n \cdot \sigma,$$

where n is an arbitrary vector of $\mathbb{R}^3$ and σ_i a Pauli matrix.

- a) Determine the eigenenergies and eigenstates of H_0 up to second order for the non-degenerated case ($E_+ \neq E_-$).
- b) Now, for a degenerated system ($E_+ = E_-$), find the unperturbed eigenstates which diagonalise the perturbation. What is the first order energy correction?
- c) Solve the Schrödinger equation $H |\Psi\rangle = E |\Psi\rangle$ exactly and compare it to the previous results.