

Time-Independent Perturbation Theory

I. Non Degenerate Perturbation Theory

$$H = H_0 + \lambda W \quad \lambda \ll 1$$

$$\text{where } H_0 |p\rangle = E_p^0 |p\rangle$$

$$\langle p' | p \rangle = \delta_{p'p}$$

$$\sum_p |p\rangle \langle p| = 1$$

We are interested in solutions & eigenvalues of H :

$$H |\psi(\lambda)\rangle = E(\lambda) |\psi(\lambda)\rangle$$

Expand E & $|\psi\rangle$ in powers of λ :

$$E(\lambda) = \epsilon_0 + \lambda \epsilon_1 + \lambda^2 \epsilon_2 + \dots$$

$$|\psi(\lambda)\rangle = |0\rangle + \lambda |1\rangle + \lambda^2 |2\rangle + \dots$$

Plug this into the Schrodinger Eqn.:

$$(H_0 + \lambda W)(|0\rangle + \lambda |1\rangle + \lambda^2 |2\rangle) = (\epsilon_0 + \lambda \epsilon_1 + \lambda^2 \epsilon_2) \times (|0\rangle + \lambda |1\rangle + \lambda^2 |2\rangle)$$

Collect Powers of λ :

$$0^{\text{th}} \quad H_0 |0\rangle = \epsilon_0 |0\rangle$$

$$1^{\text{st}} \quad H_0 |1\rangle + W |0\rangle = \epsilon_1 |0\rangle + \epsilon_0 |1\rangle$$

$$2^{\text{nd}} \quad H_0 |2\rangle + W |1\rangle = \epsilon_2 |0\rangle + \epsilon_1 |1\rangle + \epsilon_0 |2\rangle$$

Note that $|0\rangle$, $|1\rangle$ & $|2\rangle$ are not single eigenstates.

Normalization Requires that:

$$\langle 010 \rangle = 1$$

1st

$$\langle \psi(\lambda) | \psi(\lambda) \rangle = (\langle 01 + \lambda \langle 11 |) (|0\rangle + \lambda |1\rangle) + O(\lambda^2)$$

$$= \langle 010 \rangle + \lambda (\langle 110 \rangle + \langle 011 \rangle) + O(\lambda^2)$$

We choose $\langle 011 \rangle$ to be real, so that

$$\langle 011 \rangle = \langle 110 \rangle = 0$$

2nd

To Second Order:

$$\langle \psi(\lambda) | \psi(\lambda) \rangle = 1 =$$

$$= (\langle 01 + \lambda \langle 11 + \lambda^2 \langle 21 |) (|0\rangle + \lambda |1\rangle + \lambda^2 |2\rangle)$$

$$= \underbrace{\langle 010 \rangle}_{=1} + \lambda (\underbrace{\langle 110 \rangle + \langle 011 \rangle}_{=0}) + \lambda^2 (\langle 210 \rangle + \langle 012 \rangle + \langle 111 \rangle) + O(\lambda^3)$$

Thus:

$$\langle 012 \rangle = \langle 210 \rangle = -\frac{1}{2} \langle 111 \rangle$$

Zero
A. ~~First~~ Order Energy Correction

$$\mathcal{H}_0 |0\rangle = \epsilon_0 |0\rangle$$

$$\therefore \text{for state } n, |0\rangle = |n\rangle$$

$$\mathcal{H}_0 |n\rangle = E_n^0 |n\rangle$$

B. First Order Energy Correction

$$\mathcal{H}_0 |1\rangle + W |0\rangle = \epsilon_1 |0\rangle + \epsilon_0 |1\rangle$$

$$\mathcal{H}_0 |1\rangle + W |n\rangle = \epsilon_1 |n\rangle + E_n^0 |1\rangle$$

Multiply by $\langle n |$

$$\langle n | \mathcal{H}_0 |1\rangle + \langle n | W |n\rangle = \epsilon_1 \langle n | n \rangle + E_n^0 \langle n | 1 \rangle$$

$$\hookrightarrow E_n^0 \langle n | 1 \rangle = 0$$

$$\hookrightarrow 1$$

$$\hookrightarrow \langle 0 | 1 \rangle = 0$$

$$* \quad \boxed{\epsilon_1 = \langle n | W | n \rangle}$$

C. First Order Wavevector Correction

Let $|p\rangle \neq |n\rangle$

$$\langle p | \mathcal{H}_0 |1\rangle + \langle p | W |n\rangle = \epsilon_1 \langle p | n \rangle + E_n^0 \langle p | 1 \rangle$$

$$\hookrightarrow E_p^0 \langle p | 1 \rangle$$

$$\hookrightarrow 0$$

$$\langle p | 1 \rangle = \frac{\langle p | W | n \rangle}{E_n^0 - E_p^0} \quad p \neq n, \quad \langle n | 1 \rangle = 0$$

$\langle p | 1 \rangle$ are the coefficients in an expansion of $|1\rangle$:

$$|1\rangle = \sum_p |p\rangle \langle p | 1 \rangle$$

$$|1\rangle = \sum_{p \neq n} |p\rangle \frac{\langle p | W | n \rangle}{E_n^0 - E_p^0}$$

$$* \quad \boxed{|\psi_n\rangle \approx |n\rangle + \sum_{p \neq n} \frac{\langle p | W | n \rangle}{E_n^0 - E_p^0} |p\rangle}$$

D. Second Order Eigenvalue Correction

$$H_0|2\rangle + W|1\rangle = E_2|0\rangle + E_1|1\rangle + E_0|2\rangle$$

$$\langle n|H_0|2\rangle + \langle n|W|1\rangle = E_2\langle n|n\rangle + E_1\langle n|1\rangle + E_0\langle n|2\rangle$$

$\hookrightarrow = E_n^0\langle n|2\rangle$
 $\hookrightarrow 1$
 $\hookrightarrow 0$

$$\therefore E_2 = \langle n|W|1\rangle$$

$$= \langle n|W| \sum_{p \neq n} |p\rangle \frac{\langle p|W|n\rangle}{E_n^0 - E_p^0}$$

$$E_2 = \sum_{p \neq n} \frac{|\langle p|W|n\rangle|^2}{E_n^0 - E_p^0}$$

*
$$E_n \approx E_n^0 + \langle n|W|n\rangle + \sum_{p \neq n} \frac{|\langle p|W|n\rangle|^2}{E_n^0 - E_p^0}$$

E. Degenerate Levels

If a subset of the energy levels are degenerate, calculate the matrix W of that subspace & diagonalize.

For example:

$$S^2 = \hbar \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

diagonalize this 2×2 to get the new energies & eigenvectors.

Exact Solutions: Angular Momentum States

I. Operators & Observables

$$\underline{L} = \underline{R} \times \underline{P} \quad \text{angular momentum}$$

$$L_z = X P_y - Y P_x$$

$$L_x = Y P_z - Z P_y$$

$$L_y = Z P_x - X P_z$$

$$[L_x, L_y] = i\hbar L_z$$

$$[L_y, L_z] = i\hbar L_x$$

$$[L_z, L_x] = i\hbar L_y$$

For generalized angular momentum systems we use \underline{J} in lieu of \underline{L} .

$$J^2 = J_x^2 + J_y^2 + J_z^2$$

$$[J^2, \underline{J}] = 0$$

We also define the operators

$$J_+ = J_x + i J_y$$

$$J_- = J_x - i J_y$$

$$[J_z, J_+] = \hbar J_+$$

$$[J_z, J_-] = -\hbar J_-$$

$$[J_+, J_-] = 2\hbar J_z$$

II. Eigenvectors

J_z and J^2 have eigenvectors $|j, m\rangle$ where $j \rightarrow J^2 \neq$

$m \rightarrow J_z :$

$$J^2 |j, m\rangle = j(j+1)\hbar^2 |j, m\rangle \quad j \geq 0 \text{ (integer or half-integer)}$$

$$J_z |j, m\rangle = m\hbar |j, m\rangle \quad -j \leq m \leq j \text{ (} 2j+1 \text{ values)}$$

C-T use another index k to remind us that $J^2 \neq J_z$ are not at C.S.C.O. : for atoms, the radial degree of freedom will supply the additional quantum number.

In addition,

$$J_{\pm} |j, m\rangle = \hbar \sqrt{j(j+1) - m(m \pm 1)} |m \pm 1\rangle$$

(This equation works assuming that $J_+ |j, j\rangle = J_- |j, -j\rangle = 0$)

III. Matrix Representations

Matrices are $2j+1$ dimensional

$$\langle j, m | J_x | j', m' \rangle = \frac{\hbar}{2} \delta_{jj'} \times \left[\sqrt{j(j+1) - m'(m'+1)} \delta_{m, m'+1} + \sqrt{j(j+1) - m'(m'-1)} \delta_{m, m'-1} \right]$$

$$\langle j, m | J_y | j', m' \rangle = \frac{\hbar}{2i} \delta_{jj'} \times \left[\sqrt{j(j+1) - m'(m'+1)} \delta_{m, m'+1} - \sqrt{j(j+1) - m'(m'-1)} \delta_{m, m'-1} \right]$$

$$\langle j, m | J_z | j', m' \rangle = m \hbar \delta_{jj'} \delta_{mm'}$$

$$\langle j, m | J_{\pm} | j', m' \rangle = \hbar \sqrt{j(j+1) - m'(m' \pm 1)} \delta_{jj'} \delta_{m, m' \pm 1}$$

$$\langle j, m | J^2 | j', m' \rangle = \hbar^2 j(j+1) \delta_{jj'} \delta_{mm'}$$

For Example, the matrices for a Spin=1 particle in the $|j, m\rangle$

basis are given by:

$$J_z = \hbar \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$J_x = \frac{\hbar}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$J_y = \frac{\hbar}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i & 0 \\ i & 0 & -i \\ 0 & i & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$J_+ = \hbar \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sqrt{2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \sqrt{2} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$J_- = \hbar \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \sqrt{2} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \sqrt{2} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$J^2 = 2\hbar^2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

I. Charged Harmonic Oscillator in an Electric Field - Exact Solution

"Stark Effect"

$$H_0 = P^2/2m + \frac{1}{2} m \omega^2 x^2$$

$$W = -qEx \quad , \quad E = \text{Electric Field Strength}$$

This can be solved exactly by completing the square:

$$\begin{aligned} H &= P^2/2m + \frac{1}{2} m \omega^2 x^2 - qEx \\ &= P^2/2m + \frac{1}{2} m \omega^2 \left(x^2 - \frac{2qE}{m\omega^2} x + \frac{q^2 E^2}{m^2 \omega^4} \right) - \frac{q^2 E^2}{2m\omega^2} \\ &= P^2/2m + \frac{1}{2} m \omega^2 \left(x - \frac{qE}{m\omega^2} \right)^2 - \frac{q^2 E^2}{2m\omega^2} \end{aligned}$$

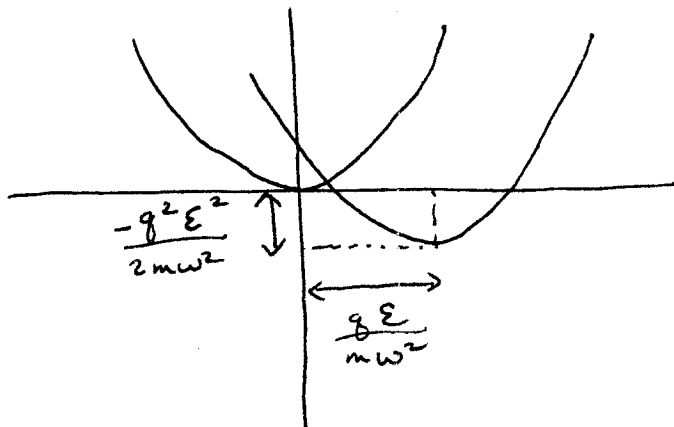
If we change $x' \Rightarrow x - \frac{qE}{m\omega^2}$, $P \Rightarrow p$ (same for both x & x')

$$\begin{aligned} H &= P^2/2m + \frac{1}{2} m \omega^2 x'^2 - \frac{q^2 E^2}{2m\omega^2} \\ &= \hbar \omega \hat{N} - \frac{q^2 E^2}{2m\omega^2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\dagger E_n = \hbar \omega \left(n + \frac{1}{2} \right) - \frac{q^2 E^2}{2m\omega^2}$$

The wavefunctions are given by:

$$|\phi'_n\rangle = e^{-\frac{i q E P}{m \hbar \omega^2}} |\phi_n\rangle \quad \text{translated by } \frac{qE}{m\omega^2}$$



II. Charged Harmonic Oscillator in an Electric Field - Perturbation Theory.

$$H_0 = \frac{P^2}{2m} + \frac{1}{2} m \omega^2 x^2$$

$$W = -q \mathcal{E} x = -q \mathcal{E} \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2m\omega}} (a^+ + a)$$

a. 1st order solution -

$$E_n = E_n^0 + \langle n | W | n \rangle$$

$$= \hbar \omega (n + \frac{1}{2}) + \langle n | W | n \rangle$$

$$\text{but } W | n \rangle \Rightarrow \alpha | n-1 \rangle + \beta | n+1 \rangle, \therefore \langle n | W | n \rangle = 0$$

$$E_n = \hbar \omega (n + \frac{1}{2}) \quad \text{to 1st order.} \quad \longleftarrow$$

b. 2nd order solution -

$$E_n = E_n^0 + W_{nn} + \sum_{n' \neq n} \frac{|\langle n' | W | n \rangle|^2}{E_n^0 - E_{n'}^0}$$

The ~~last~~ last term is nonzero only for $n' = n+1$ or $n-1$.

$$\langle n+1 | W | n \rangle = -q \mathcal{E} \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{m\omega}} \sqrt{\frac{n+1}{2}}$$

$$\langle n-1 | W | n \rangle = -q \mathcal{E} \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{m\omega}} \sqrt{\frac{n}{2}}$$

$$E_n^0 - E_{n'}^0 = (n - n') \hbar \omega$$

†

$$E_n = \hbar \omega (n + \frac{1}{2}) + \frac{q^2 \mathcal{E}^2}{2m\omega^2} \left(\frac{n}{n - (n-1)} + \frac{n+1}{n - (n+1)} \right)$$

$$= \hbar \omega (n + \frac{1}{2}) - \frac{q^2 \mathcal{E}^2}{2m\omega^2} \quad \longleftarrow \quad \text{same as exact result.}$$

Perturbation Theory Example: Two Spin 1/2's coupled by dipole-dipole interactions.

Consider two spins $\underline{S}_1 \neq \underline{S}_2$ that have different magnetic moments (e.g., C & H):

$$\underline{M}_1 = \gamma_1 \underline{S}_1$$

$$\underline{M}_2 = \gamma_2 \underline{S}_2$$

We are interested in the states $|\pm \pm\rangle$ of \mathcal{H}_0

$$\mathcal{H}_0 = \omega_1 S_{1z} + \omega_2 S_{2z}$$

$$\omega_1 = -\gamma_1 B_0 \quad \omega_2 = -\gamma_2 B_0$$

The dipole-dipole interaction we will treat as a perturbation W on \mathcal{H}_0 :

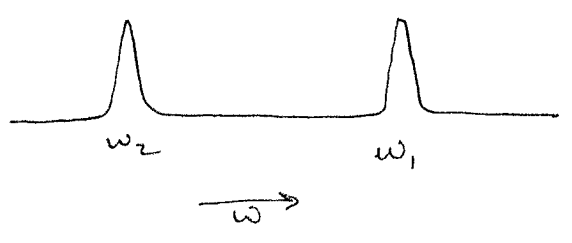
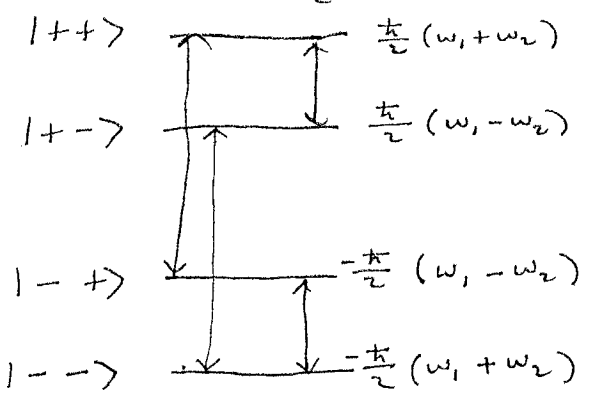
$$\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_0 + W$$

$$W \approx A(3 \cos^2 \theta - 1) \left[S_{1z} S_{2z} - \frac{1}{4} (S_{1+} S_{2-} + S_{1-} S_{2+}) \right]$$

where θ is the angle between \underline{S}_1 & \underline{S}_2 .

0th order Energy Eigenvalues:

$$E^0 = \pm \frac{\hbar \omega_1}{2} \pm \frac{\hbar \omega_2}{2} \quad \text{assume } \omega_1 > \omega_2$$



The selection rules for transitions between these states are only one spin flip is allowed (lines represent allowed transitions).

1st order energy levels:

~~Apply~~ We need to calculate $\langle \pm\pm | W | \pm\pm \rangle$. Only the $S_{1z} S_{2z}$ term

leads to diagonal ~~matrix~~ matrix elements:

$$\langle ++ | W | ++ \rangle = A(3 \cos^2 \theta - 1) \cdot \frac{\hbar^2}{4} \equiv \hbar \Omega$$

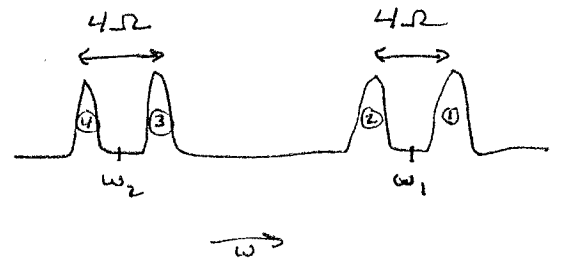
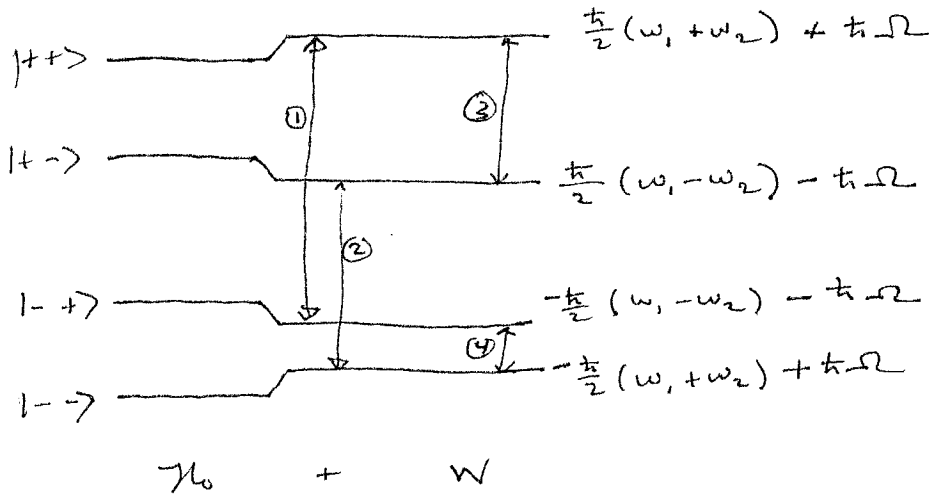
$$\leftarrow \langle ++ | S_{1z} S_{2z} | ++ \rangle = \frac{\hbar^2}{4}$$

$$\Omega \equiv \frac{\hbar^2}{4} A (3 \cos^2 \theta - 1)$$

$$\langle +- | W | +- \rangle = A(3 \cos^2 \theta - 1) \cdot \frac{-\hbar^2}{4} = -\hbar \Omega$$

$$\langle -+ | W | -+ \rangle = A(3 \cos^2 \theta - 1) \cdot \frac{-\hbar^2}{4} = -\hbar \Omega$$

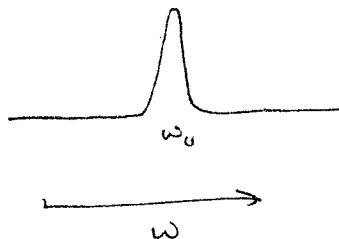
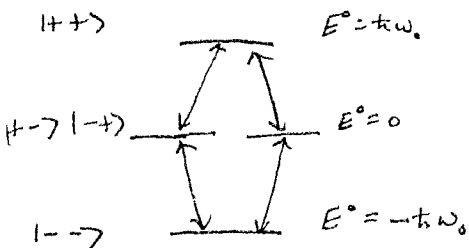
$$\langle -- | W | -- \rangle = A(3 \cos^2 \theta - 1) \cdot \frac{\hbar^2}{4} = \hbar \Omega$$



Selection Rules are unchanged since eigenstates are unchanged (to 1st order).

Degenerate case: $\omega_1 = \omega_2 \equiv \omega_0$ two identical spins.

0th Order:



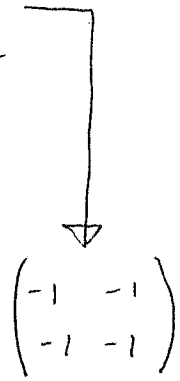
1st Order Correction:

Non degenerate shifts for $|++\rangle$ & $|--\rangle$ states are the same as before, but the $|+-\rangle$ & $| -+\rangle$ states mix due to the $S_1 + S_2$ terms:

$$W = \begin{pmatrix} k\Omega & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -k\Omega & -k\Omega & 0 \\ 0 & -k\Omega & -k\Omega & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & k\Omega \end{pmatrix} \quad H_0 = \begin{pmatrix} k\omega & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -k\omega \end{pmatrix}$$

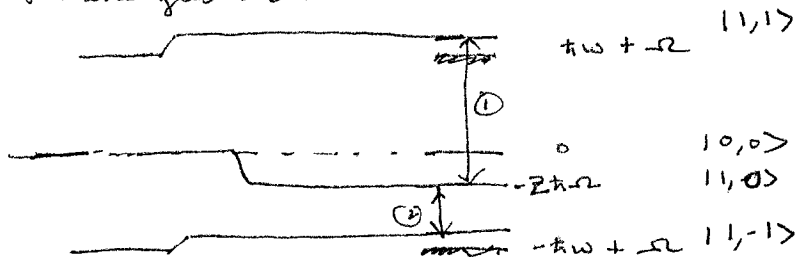
We have diagonalized ^{a similar} ~~the~~ matrix before. It leads to the eigenstates of S^z :

$$\begin{aligned} |++\rangle &= |1,1\rangle & \langle 1,1|W|1,1\rangle &= k\Omega \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|+-\rangle + |-+\rangle) &= |1,0\rangle & \langle 1,0|W|1,0\rangle &= -2k\Omega \\ |--\rangle &= |1,-1\rangle & \langle 1,-1|W|1,-1\rangle &= +k\Omega \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|+-\rangle - |-+\rangle) &= |0,0\rangle & \langle 0,0|W|0,0\rangle &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

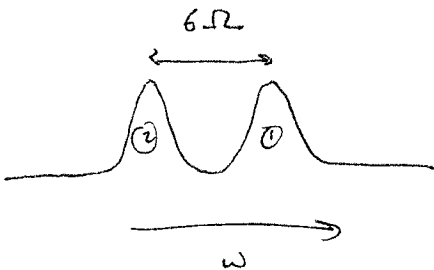


$$\begin{aligned} (-1-\lambda)^2 - 1 &= 0 \\ 1+\lambda &= \pm 1 \\ \lambda &= \pm 1 - 1 \\ &= -2, 0 \end{aligned}$$

Thus the energies are

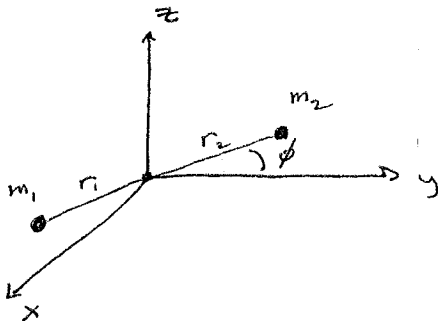


Only transitions between triplet states are allowed.



Perturbation Theory Example: Rotation of Diatomic Molecules & the Stark Effect

Consider a rigid diatomic rotator whose center of mass is positioned at the origin of our reference frame:



$$r_e = r_1 + r_2 = \text{bond distance}$$

$$I = m_1 r_1^2 + m_2 r_2^2 = \text{moment of inertia}$$

$$\mu = \frac{m_1 m_2}{m_1 + m_2} = \text{reduced mass}$$

A. Unperturbed Eigenvalues & Eigenstates.

1. The Hamiltonian for the free rotation of this diatomic is

$$H_0 = \frac{L^2}{2I} \quad L^2 \text{ is the angular momentum operator}$$

∴ The eigenstates are $|l, m\rangle$ as in our generalized angular momentum problems.

$$H_0 |l, m\rangle = \frac{\hbar^2}{2I} l(l+1) = hB l(l+1) \quad B \equiv \frac{\hbar^2}{4\pi I}$$

2. If the motion of the diatomic is restricted to the x-y plane, then it is called a plane rigid rotor, and only the m quantum number is important:

$$H_0 |m\rangle = \frac{L_z^2}{2I} = \frac{\hbar^2}{2I} m^2 \quad m = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2 \dots$$

$$4hB \text{ ————— } |2\rangle, |1-2\rangle$$

$$hB \text{ ————— } |1\rangle, |1-1\rangle$$

$$0 \text{ ————— } |0\rangle$$

The ground state is non-degenerate, & all excited states are two-fold degenerate.

B. Stark Effect on the Plane Rigid Rotor

If we now apply an electric field in the $+x$ direction of strength E_0 , & if the rigid rotor has a charge $\pm q$ on each mass, then the energy of interaction of this dipole & the field is given by:

$$W = -\underline{d} \cdot \underline{E} = -(qr_e \hat{r}) \cdot (E_0 \hat{x}) = -qr_e E_0 \cos \phi$$

where ϕ is the angle between \hat{r} & \hat{x} .

I will assert that this perturbation has the following matrix elements:

$$\langle m' | W | m \rangle = -\frac{qr_e E_0}{2} \delta_{m', m \pm 1} \equiv -\alpha \delta_{m', m \pm 1}$$

(You can derive this relation rather easily).

The perturbation modifies the Hamiltonian in the following fashion:

$$\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_0 + W = \begin{pmatrix} E_0^0 & -\alpha & -\alpha & 0 & 0 \\ -\alpha & E_{-1}^0 & 0 & -\alpha & 0 \\ -\alpha & 0 & E_1^0 & 0 & -\alpha \\ 0 & -\alpha & 0 & E_{-2}^0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\alpha & 0 & E_2^0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Perturbation Energies:

$$E_0 = E_m^0 = \frac{\hbar^2}{2I} m^2$$

$$\underline{\underline{E_1 = 0}}$$

This is true because (i) $W_{mm} = 0$ for all m , & (ii) $W_{m, -m} = 0$ for all m (i.e., degenerate states are not mixed with W).

Second Order Energy Correction:

$$\epsilon_2 = \sum_{m' \neq m} \frac{|\langle m' | W | m \rangle|^2}{E_m^0 - E_{m'}^0}$$

$$= \alpha^2 \left[\frac{1}{E_m^0 - E_{m-1}^0} + \frac{1}{E_m^0 - E_{m+1}^0} \right]$$

$$= \frac{2I\alpha^2}{\hbar^2} \left[\frac{1}{m^2 - (m-1)^2} + \frac{1}{m^2 - (m+1)^2} \right]$$

$$m^2 - (m-1)^2 = m^2 - (m^2 - 2m + 1) = 2m - 1$$

$$m^2 - (m+1)^2 = m^2 - (m^2 + 2m + 1) = -(2m + 1)$$

$$\epsilon_2 = \frac{2I\alpha^2}{\hbar^2} \left[\frac{1}{2m-1} - \frac{1}{2m+1} \right]$$

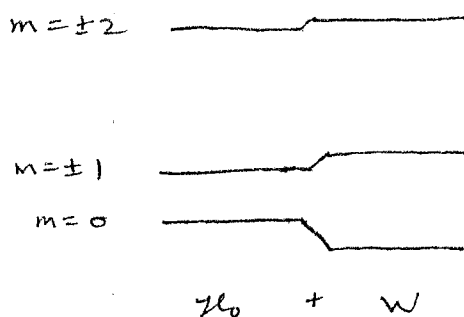
$$\epsilon_2 = \frac{4I\alpha^2}{\hbar^2} \cdot \frac{1}{(4m^2 - 1)} \equiv \frac{\delta}{4m^2 - 1}$$

$$\delta \equiv \frac{4I\alpha^2}{\hbar^2}$$

$$\epsilon_2(m=0) = -\delta$$

$$\epsilon_2(m=\pm 1) = +\frac{1}{3}\delta$$

$$\epsilon_2(m=\pm 2) = +\frac{1}{15}\delta$$



Note that:

- 1) The shift in energy (δ) is proportional to E^2 . This is the second order Stark shift. The first order Stark Shift is zero for this system since $\epsilon_1 = 0$
- 2) Degenerate levels stay degenerate ($\pm m$), as expected.
- 3) For a 3-d rigid rotor:

$$\epsilon_2 = \frac{4\alpha^2}{2\hbar B \ell(\ell+1)} \cdot \frac{\ell(\ell+1) - 3m^2}{(2\ell-1)(2\ell+3)}$$

cf. Townes & Schawlow, "Microwave Spectroscopy"

Eigenvalues & Eigenvectors for S^2

$$\begin{aligned} S^2 &= S_1^2 + S_2^2 + 2 \underline{S}_1 \cdot \underline{S}_2 \\ &= S_1^2 + S_2^2 + 2(S_{1z} S_{2z} + S_{1x} S_{2x} + S_{1y} S_{2y}) \end{aligned}$$

a) S_1^2, S_2^2 & $S_{1z} S_{2z}$ are diagonal in the $|\pm\pm\rangle$ basis:

$$S_1^2 |\pm\pm\rangle = S_2^2 |\pm\pm\rangle = \frac{3}{4} \hbar^2$$

$$2 S_{1z} S_{2z} |++\rangle = \frac{\hbar^2}{2} |++\rangle$$

$$2 S_{1z} S_{2z} |--\rangle = \frac{\hbar^2}{2} |--\rangle$$

$$2 S_{1z} S_{2z} |+-\rangle = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2} |+-\rangle$$

$$2 S_{1z} S_{2z} |-+\rangle = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2} |-+\rangle$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{In general:} \\ S_x |\pm\rangle = \frac{\hbar}{2} |\mp\rangle \\ S_y |\pm\rangle = \pm i \frac{\hbar}{2} |\mp\rangle \end{array} \right.$$

b) $2(S_{1x} S_{2x} + S_{1y} S_{2y})$ is not diagonal in the $|\pm\pm\rangle$ basis:

$$2(S_{1x} S_{2x} + S_{1y} S_{2y}) |++\rangle = 2 \cdot \frac{\hbar^2}{4} (|--\rangle - |--\rangle) = 0$$

$$2(S_{1x} S_{2x} + S_{1y} S_{2y}) |--\rangle = 2 \cdot \frac{\hbar^2}{4} (|++\rangle - |++\rangle) = 0$$

$$2(S_{1x} S_{2x} + S_{1y} S_{2y}) |+-\rangle = 2 \cdot \frac{\hbar^2}{4} (|-+\rangle + |-+\rangle) = \hbar^2 |-+\rangle$$

$$2(S_{1x} S_{2x} + S_{1y} S_{2y}) |-+\rangle = 2 \cdot \frac{\hbar^2}{4} (|+-\rangle + |+-\rangle) = \hbar^2 |+-\rangle$$

c) The matrix for S^2 is block diagonal:

$$S^2 = \hbar^2 \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

d) Diagonalize the $|+-\rangle$ & $|-+\rangle$ states:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1-\lambda & 1 \\ 1 & 1-\lambda \end{pmatrix} = 0 = (1-\lambda)^2 - 1$$

$$(1-\lambda)^2 = 1$$

$$1-\lambda = \pm 1$$

$$\lambda = 1 \pm 1 = 2, 0$$

Two values, Two states:

$$|\lambda=2\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|+-\rangle + |-+\rangle)$$

$$|\lambda=0\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|+-\rangle - |-+\rangle)$$

Thus $|++\rangle$, $|--\rangle$, & $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|+-\rangle + |-+\rangle)$ have an S^2 eigenvalue of $2\hbar^2$

These are called the triplet states.

The vector $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|+-\rangle - |-+\rangle)$ has an S^2 eigenvalue of $0\hbar^2$.

It is called the singlet state.

What are the eigenvalues of S_z ?

$$S_z = S_{1z} + S_{2z}$$

$$S_z |++\rangle = \hbar |++\rangle$$

$$S_z |--\rangle = -\hbar |--\rangle$$

$$S_z |t=2\rangle = (S_{1z} + S_{2z}) \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|+-\rangle + |-+\rangle) = 0$$

$$S |t=0\rangle = (S_{1z} + S_{2z}) \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|+-\rangle - |-+\rangle) = 0$$

S_z is diagonal:

$$S_z = \hbar \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

We can rewrite the coupled spin states in terms of an $S=1$ & an $S=0$ set:

$$|1, 1\rangle = |++\rangle$$

$$|1, 0\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|+-\rangle + |-+\rangle)$$

$$|1, -1\rangle = |--\rangle$$

$$|0, 0\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|+-\rangle - |-+\rangle)$$

$\underline{J} \cdot \underline{S}$ coupling

As a final note, consider the coupling of two spins / angular momenta \underline{J} & \underline{S} . Such a coupling is usually a dot product:

$$H_{int} = a \underline{J} \cdot \underline{S}$$

$$\underline{J} \cdot \underline{S} = J_x S_x + J_y S_y + J_z S_z$$

consider the term $J_+ S_- + J_- S_+$

$$\begin{aligned} J_+ S_- + J_- S_+ &= (J_x + i J_y)(S_x - i S_y) + (J_x - i J_y)(S_x + i S_y) \\ &= J_x S_x + J_y S_y + i (J_y S_x - J_x S_y) + J_x S_x + J_y S_y \\ &\quad + i (J_x S_y - J_y S_x) \\ &= 2 (J_x S_x + J_y S_y) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore:

$$\underline{J} \cdot \underline{S} = J_z S_z + \frac{1}{2} (J_+ S_- + S_- J_+)$$

This form will be useful when calculating the eigenstates of coupled systems