

Chapter 7

Approximation Methods for Bound States

Problem 7.1 State Vectors in Second Order

The states can be computed from

$$|\psi_n\rangle = |\psi_n^0\rangle + \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{|\psi_m^0\rangle \langle \psi_m^0 | \Delta_n - H' | \psi_n\rangle}{E_m^0 - E_n^0} \quad (7.9)$$

while from Equations (7.5) and (7.21), the level shift is

$$\Delta_n = \langle \psi_n^0 | H' | \psi_n \rangle \quad (S7.1)$$

Expand:

$$\Delta_n = \Delta_n^1 + \Delta_n^2 + \dots \quad (S7.2a)$$

$$|\psi_n\rangle = |\psi_0\rangle + |\psi_1\rangle + |\psi_2\rangle + \dots \quad (S7.2b)$$

write equation (7.9) as

$$|\psi_n\rangle = |\psi_n^0\rangle + \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{|\psi_m^0\rangle \langle \psi_m^0 |}{E_m^0 - E_n^0} \left(\Delta_n^1 + \Delta_n^2 + \dots - H' \right) \left(|\psi_0\rangle + |\psi_1\rangle + |\psi_2\rangle + \dots \right) \quad (S7.3)$$

and collect terms order by order.

Through first order

$$|\psi_n^0\rangle = |\psi_n^0\rangle - \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{H'_{mn} |\psi_m^0\rangle}{E_n^0 - E_m^0} \quad (S7.4)$$

and through second order

$$\Delta_n = H'_{nn} + \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{|H'_{mn}|^2}{E_m^0 - E_n^0} \quad (S7.5)$$

The second-order term in the expansion of the state vector is

$$|\psi_n^2\rangle = \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{|\psi_m^0\rangle}{E_m^0 - E_n^0} \langle \psi_m^0 | \Delta_n^2 | \psi_n^0 \rangle + \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{|\psi_m^0\rangle}{E_m^0 - E_n^0} \langle \psi_m^0 | \Delta_n^1 - H' | \psi_n^1 \rangle \quad (S7.6)$$

or

$$\begin{aligned}
 |\psi_n^2\rangle &= -\sum_{\substack{m \neq n \\ k \neq n}} |\psi_m^0\rangle \frac{H'_{mn} H'_{kn}}{(E_m^0 - E_n^0)(E_k^0 - E_n^0)} \langle \psi_m^0 | \psi_k^0 \rangle + \sum_{\substack{m \neq n \\ k \neq n}} |\psi_m^0\rangle \frac{H'_{kn}}{(E_m^0 - E_n^0)(E_k^0 - E_n^0)} \langle \psi_m^0 | H' | \psi_k^0 \rangle \\
 &= -\sum_{\substack{m \neq n \\ k \neq n}} |\psi_m^0\rangle \frac{H'_{mn} H'_{kn}}{(E_m^0 - E_n^0)^2} + \sum_{\substack{m \neq n \\ k \neq n}} |\psi_m^0\rangle \frac{H'_{mk} H'_{kn}}{(E_m^0 - E_n^0)(E_k^0 - E_n^0)}
 \end{aligned}$$

Problem 7.2 Oscillator with Cubic Perturbation

The unperturbed energies are $\omega(n + \frac{1}{2})$. The perturbation is

$$\begin{aligned}
 H' &= -\beta x^3 = -\beta(2m\omega)^{-\frac{3}{2}}(a + a^\dagger)^3 \\
 &= -\beta(2m\omega)^{-\frac{3}{2}}(a^3 + 3a^\dagger a + 3a^\dagger a^2 + a^3 + 3a + 3a^\dagger)
 \end{aligned}$$

The perturbation H' connects states whose levels differ by 1 or 3; it has no diagonal elements, so the first-order energy shift.

The matrix elements needed are

$$\begin{aligned}
 \langle 1 | H' | 0 \rangle &= -\beta(2m\omega)^{-\frac{3}{2}} \langle 1 | 3a^\dagger | 0 \rangle = -3\beta(2m\omega)^{-\frac{3}{2}} \\
 \langle 3 | H' | 0 \rangle &= -\beta(2m\omega)^{-\frac{3}{2}} \langle 3 | a^3 | 0 \rangle = -\sqrt{6}\beta(2m\omega)^{-\frac{3}{2}} \\
 \langle 2 | H' | 1 \rangle &= -\beta(2m\omega)^{-\frac{3}{2}} \langle 2 | 3a^\dagger a + 3a^\dagger | 1 \rangle = -6\sqrt{2}\beta(2m\omega)^{-\frac{3}{2}} \\
 \langle 4 | H' | 1 \rangle &= -\beta(2m\omega)^{-\frac{3}{2}} \langle 4 | a^3 | 1 \rangle = -\sqrt{24}\beta(2m\omega)^{-\frac{3}{2}}
 \end{aligned}$$

The second-order shift of the ground state is

$$\Delta_0 = -\frac{1}{\omega} \langle 1 | H' | 0 \rangle^2 - \frac{1}{3\omega} \langle 3 | H' | 0 \rangle^2 = \boxed{-\frac{1}{\omega} \beta^2 \frac{1}{(2m\omega)^3} (9 + 2) = -11 \frac{1}{\omega} \beta^2 \frac{1}{(2m\omega)^3}}$$

The second-order shift of the first excited state is state is

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Delta_1 &= \frac{1}{\omega} \langle 0 | H' | 1 \rangle^2 - \frac{1}{\omega} \langle 2 | H' | 1 \rangle^2 - \frac{1}{3\omega} \langle 4 | H' | 1 \rangle^2 \\
 &= \boxed{\frac{1}{\omega} \beta^2 \frac{1}{(2m\omega)^3} (9 - 72 - 8) = -71 \frac{1}{\omega} \beta^2 \frac{1}{(2m\omega)^3}}
 \end{aligned}$$

Problem 7.3 Harmonic Oscillator Perturbation Problem

The second-order shift of the n -th energy level is

$$\Delta_n^2 = -\sum_{m \neq n} \frac{|H'_{mn}|^2}{E_m^0 - E_n^0} \quad (5)$$

Now

$$H'_{mn} = \frac{\hbar\lambda}{2} \langle \psi_m^0 | x^2 | \psi_n^0 \rangle = \frac{\hbar\lambda}{4m\omega} \langle \psi_m^0 | (a^2 + a^{\dagger 2} + 2a^\dagger a + 1) | \psi_n^0 \rangle \quad (5)$$

The last two terms contribute only when $m = n$. The remaining terms connect $|\psi_n^0\rangle$ to $|\psi_{n\pm 2}^0\rangle$ only. T

$$H'_{n+2,n} = \frac{\hbar\lambda}{4m\omega} \langle \psi_{n+2}^0 | a^{\dagger 2} | \psi_n^0 \rangle = \frac{\hbar\lambda}{4m\omega} \sqrt{(n+1)(n+2)} \quad (5)$$

while

$$H'_{n-2,n} = \frac{\hbar\lambda}{4m\omega} \langle \psi_{n-2}^0 | a^2 | \psi_n^0 \rangle = \frac{\hbar\lambda}{4m\omega} \sqrt{n(n-1)} \quad (S7.15)$$

Of course $H'_{n-2,n}$ is automatically zero when $n = 0$ or $n = 1$. Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_n^2 &= - \left[\frac{|H'_{n+2,n}|^2}{2\hbar\omega} + \frac{|H'_{n-2,n}|^2}{-2\hbar\omega} \right] = \frac{1}{2\hbar\omega} \frac{\hbar^2\lambda^2}{16m^2\omega^2} [n(n-1) - (n+1)(n+2)] \\ &= \frac{1}{2\hbar\omega} \frac{\hbar^2\lambda^2}{16m^2\omega^2} [-4n-2] = - \left(n + \frac{1}{2} \right) \frac{\hbar\lambda^2}{8m^2\omega^3} \end{aligned} \quad (S7.16)$$

The exact eigenvalues are

$$E_n = \left(n + \frac{1}{2} \right) \hbar\omega \left[1 + \frac{\lambda}{m\omega^2} \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} = \left(n + \frac{1}{2} \right) \hbar\omega \left[1 + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\lambda}{m\omega^2} - \frac{1}{8} \left(\frac{\lambda}{m\omega^2} \right)^2 + \dots \right] \quad (S7.17)$$

in agreement with the second order perturbation computation.

✓ Problem 7.4 Infinite Well with Delta Function Revisited

The unperturbed energies are

$$E_n = \frac{n^2\pi^2}{8ma^2} \quad (S7.18)$$

The first order shifts are

$$\Delta_n = H'_{nn} = \beta E_0 a \psi_n(0)^2 \quad (S7.19)$$

For even n the wave functions are odd, so there is no shift. For odd n ,

$$\Delta_n = \beta E_0 a \frac{1}{a} = \beta E_0 \quad (S7.20)$$

independent of n .

The off-diagonal matrix elements are also

$$H'_{mn} = \beta E_0 \quad (S7.21)$$

provided both n and m are odd, and zero otherwise. So there is a shift of the odd levels only, given by

$$\Delta_n^{(2)} = -\beta^2 E_0^2 \frac{1}{E_0} \sum_{\substack{m \neq n \\ m \text{ odd}}}^{\infty} \frac{1}{m^2 - n^2} = -\frac{\beta^2 E_0}{4n^2} \quad (S7.22)$$

in agreement with equation (S3.44). The sum can be calculated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{\substack{m \neq n, m \text{ odd}}}^{\infty} \frac{1}{m^2 - n^2} &= -\frac{1}{2n} \sum_{\substack{m \neq n \\ m \text{ odd}}}^{\infty} \left[\frac{1}{m+n} - \frac{1}{m-n} \right] = -\frac{1}{2n} \left[\sum_{\substack{m=1 \\ m \text{ odd}}}^{\infty} \frac{1}{m+n} - \sum_{\substack{m=2n+1 \\ m \text{ odd}}}^{\infty} \frac{1}{m-n} - \frac{1}{2n} \right] \\ &= -\frac{1}{2n} \left[\sum_{\substack{k=n+1 \\ k \text{ even}}}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k} - \sum_{\substack{k=n+1 \\ k \text{ even}}}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k} - \frac{1}{2n} \right] = \frac{1}{4n^2} \end{aligned} \quad (S7.23)$$

Problem 7.5 A Two-State System
The full Hamiltonian is

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} E_0 + \epsilon_1 & -A \\ -A & E_0 + \epsilon_2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (\text{S7.24})$$

The exact eigenvalues are solutions to the characteristic equation:

$$(E_0 + \epsilon_1 - \lambda)(E_0 + \epsilon_2 - \lambda) - A^2 = 0 \quad (\text{S7.25})$$

or

$$\lambda = E_0 + \frac{\epsilon_1 + \epsilon_2}{2} \pm \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{(\epsilon_1 - \epsilon_2)^2 + 4A^2} \quad (\text{S7.26})$$

When $\epsilon_i \ll |A|$, the unperturbed eigenstates are

$$|\psi_{\pm}\rangle = \frac{|\psi_1\rangle \pm |\psi_2\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \quad (\text{S7.27})$$

with eigenvalues $E_0 \mp A$. The nonvanishing elements of the perturbation are $\langle \psi_{\pm} | H' | \psi_{\pm} \rangle = \epsilon_{\pm}$. The first-order effect is

$$\langle \psi_{\pm} | H' | \psi_{\pm} \rangle = \frac{\epsilon_1 + \epsilon_2}{2} \quad (\text{S7.28})$$

To this order the energies are

$$E = E_0 \pm A + \frac{\epsilon_1 + \epsilon_2}{2} \quad (\text{S7.29})$$

When $|A| \ll \epsilon_i$, take the original states as the unperturbed states. The “unperturbed” eigenvalues are $E_0 + \epsilon_i$. The first-order perturbation is zero. The second order energy shifts are

$$\Delta_1^{(2)} = |H'_{12}|^2 \frac{1}{E_1^{(0)} - E_2^{(0)}} = \frac{A^2}{\epsilon_1 - \epsilon_2} \quad (\text{S7.30})$$

and

$$\Delta_2^{(2)} = -\Delta_1^{(2)} \quad (\text{S7.31})$$

which is also what you get by expanding the exact formula through second order in A .

Problem 7.6 External Electric Quadrupole Field
Part a) Since $\mathbf{E} = -\nabla V(\mathbf{r})$,

$$\boxed{H' = eG(x^2 - y^2)} \quad (\text{S7.32})$$

Part b) Define as usual

$$r^{\pm 1} = \mp \frac{x \pm iy}{\sqrt{2}} \quad (\text{S7.33})$$

H' is the sum of two components of a rank-two spherical tensor: $H' = Q_2^+ + Q_2^-$ where

$$Q_2^{\pm 2} = eGr^{\pm 2} r^{\pm} \quad (\text{S7.34})$$

The other components, $Q_2^{\pm 1}$ and Q_2^0 , can be obtained by commuting $Q_{\pm 2}$ with the components of \mathbf{J} as in section 5.2.2, but you do not need them here.

It follows that $\langle 3, 2, m' | H' | 3, 2, m \rangle$ vanishes unless $m' - m = \pm 2$. So do not bother to work out any others. In particular, from the first selection rule (Section 5.2.4)

$$\langle 3, 2, m + 2 | H' | 3, 2, m \rangle = \langle 3, 2, m + 2 | Q_2^+ | 3, 2, m \rangle \quad (\text{S7.35})$$

$$\langle 3, 2, m - 2 | H' | 3, 2, m \rangle = \langle 3, 2, m + 2 | Q_2^- | 3, 2, m \rangle \quad (\text{S7.36})$$