

E306: Magnetic susceptibility in an Aharonov-Bohm system

Submitted by: Rami Shnaiderman

The problem:

A particle with mass m and charge e is placed in a one dimensional ring of length L , the flux through the ring is Φ . The particle is in the ground state.

- (1) Find the magnetic susceptibility of the system, $\chi_n = -\frac{d^2 E_n}{d\Phi^2}$.
- (2) Explain in what sense the effect is diamagnetic.
- (3) How the result is effected if we add a scattering device to the system?

Fermions are defined as particles obeying Pauli principal, electrons are fermions with spin half.

- (4) Do question (1) for 3 spinless fermions.
- (5) for 6 fermions which are electrons?

The solution:

- (1) We know that for Aharonov-Bohm system the energy is:

$$E_n = \frac{\left(\frac{\pi n}{L} - \frac{e\Phi}{L}\right)^2}{2m}$$

thus using $n=0$ and substituting the above equation into definition for susceptibility we get:

$$\chi_0 = -\frac{d^2 E_0}{d\Phi^2} = -\frac{d^2}{d\Phi^2} \frac{1}{2m} \left(\frac{e\phi}{L}\right)^2 = -\frac{e^2}{mL^2}$$

- (2) From the above calculations we get $\chi_n = \text{const} < 0$ it indicates that the system is diamagnetic - negative response to magnetic field. In our system the meaning is raise in energy (while at the same energy level) due to a slight raise in flux.

- (3) The dependence of $I(\Phi)$ on the flux becomes weaker and weaker as the transmission of the ring becomes smaller. Consequently the diamagnetic effect becomes smaller. For very large scatterer (ring with zero transmission) the energy levels become flat, and $I(\Phi)$ and χ become both zero.

- (4) The particles obey Pauli's principal, meaning there will be only one particle per energy level (we can regard them as spin 1/2 particles), the total energy will be:

$$E = E_1 + E_2 + E_3$$

and the susceptibility:

$$\chi = \chi_1 + \chi_2 + \chi_3 = 3\chi_0 = -\frac{3e^2}{mL^2}$$

- (5) for electrons we'll get 2 particles per energy level:

$$E = 2E_1 + 2E_2 + 2E_3$$

and the susceptibility:

$$\chi = 6\chi_0 = -\frac{6e^2}{mL^2}$$