

Ex5666: A particle in a two dimensional box with a potential step

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The problem:

An electron with mass M is in a two dimensional box $|x| < a$, $|y| < b$. Inside the box there is a step potential $V(x) = \frac{1}{2}V_0 \cdot \text{sgn}(x)$.

In this question you need to consider spin-orbit interaction. Units: $c = 1$, $e = 1$, $g \approx 2$.

1. Write the Hamiltonian using the position and momentum operators and the spin operator σ_z .
2. Write the unperturbed eigenstates $|n, m\rangle$ in the standard basis.
3. Write an expression for the matrix elements $\langle n, m|V(x)|1, 1\rangle$.
4. Calculate the second order correction of the ground state energy which arise from the electrostatic interaction.
5. Which states are not effected by the spin-orbit interaction?
6. Repeat section 3 for spin-orbit interaction.
7. Repeat section 4 for spin-orbit interaction.

TIP: Use the following symbols:

$$\text{SIN}_\nu(\theta) = \cos(\nu\theta) \quad \text{for } \nu = 1, 3, \dots$$

$$\text{SIN}_\nu(\theta) = \sin(\nu\theta) \quad \text{for } \nu = 2, 4, \dots$$

$$c_\nu = \int_0^{\pi^{\setminus 2}} \sin(\nu\theta)\cos(\theta)d\theta$$

The spin state σ_z is a "good quantum number"- you should only address it in your answer to section 6.

The answers to sections 4 and 7 are series, clearly state the summation index.

The solution:

1.

$$\mathcal{H} = \frac{1}{2M}\hat{p}^2 + V(\hat{x}) - \frac{1}{2M^2}(g-1)(\vec{\mathcal{E}} \times \vec{p})\vec{S} = \frac{1}{2M}\hat{p}^2 + \frac{1}{2}V_0 \cdot \text{sgn}(\hat{x}) + \frac{V_0}{4M^2}\hat{p}_y \cdot \delta(\hat{x}) \cdot \hat{\sigma}_z$$

2. Boundary conditions:

$$\Psi(x = \pm a) = \Psi(y = \pm b) = 0$$

$$|n, m\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{ab}} \cdot \text{SIN}_n\left(\frac{\pi x}{2a}\right) \cdot \text{SIN}_m\left(\frac{\pi y}{2b}\right)$$

eigenvalues:

$$\mathcal{E}_{n,m} = \frac{1}{2M} \left[\left(\frac{\pi n}{2a}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\pi m}{2b}\right)^2 \right], \quad \text{for } V_0 = 0$$

3.

$$\begin{aligned} \langle n, m | V(x) | 1, 1 \rangle &= \frac{V_0}{2ab} \int_{-a}^a \text{SIN}_n \left(\frac{\pi x}{2a} \right) \cos \left(\frac{\pi x}{2a} \right) \text{sgn}(x) dx \cdot \int_{-b}^b \text{SIN}_m \left(\frac{\pi y}{2b} \right) \cos \left(\frac{\pi y}{2b} \right) dy = \\ &= \frac{2\delta_{1,m} \cdot V_0 \cdot c_n}{\pi}, \quad \text{for } n = 2, 4, \dots \end{aligned}$$

4.

$$E_{11}^{[2]} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{(|\langle n, m | V | 1, 1 \rangle|)^2}{E_{11} - E_{n,m}} = -\frac{32MV_0^2 a^2}{\pi^4} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{c_{2n}^2}{4n^2 - 1}$$

5. The spin-orbit term of the Hamiltonian is:

$$\mathcal{H}_{SO} = \frac{V_0}{4M^2} \hat{p}_y \cdot \delta(\hat{x}) \cdot \hat{\sigma}_z$$

Thus the eigenstates for which $\Psi(x = 0) = 0$ are unaffected by the delta function. This condition applies only to even n.

6.

$$\begin{aligned} \langle n, m | \mathcal{H}_{SO} | 1, 1 \rangle &= \frac{-iV_0 \cdot \sigma_z}{4M^2 ab} \int_{-a}^a \text{SIN}_n \left(\frac{\pi x}{2a} \right) \cos \left(\frac{\pi x}{2a} \right) \delta(x) dx \cdot \int_{-b}^b \text{SIN}_m \left(\frac{\pi y}{2b} \right) \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \cos \left(\frac{\pi y}{2b} \right) dy = \\ &= \frac{iV_0 \cdot \sigma_z \cdot c_m}{2M^2 ab} \quad \text{for } m = 2, 4, \dots ; n = 1, 3, \dots \end{aligned}$$

7.

$$E_{11}^{[2]} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{(|\langle n, m | \mathcal{H}_{SO} | 1, 1 \rangle|)^2}{E_{11} - E_{n,m}} = -\frac{2V_0^2}{M^3 \pi^2 a^2 b^2} \sum_{n=1,3,\dots}^{\infty} \sum_{m=2,4,\dots}^{\infty} \frac{c_m^2}{\frac{n^2 - 1}{a^2} + \frac{m^2 - 1}{b^2}}$$