

E6050: Perturbed Particle in a 2D Symmetric Box

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The problem:

Given a particle without spin, and mass m in a squared box $x, y \in [-a, a]$. Later we will add the potential $V = u\delta(x)\delta(y)$.

- (1) Write the wave function $\psi(x, y)$ of the unperturbed ground state.
- (2) Write the lowest 3 eigenstates which are coupled to the ground state by the perturbation.
- (3) Write the Hamiltonian $H = H_0 + V$, as a sum of two 4x4 matrices.
- (4) Write the eigenstates (as column vectors) and the first order eigen energies of u .
- (5) Calculate the correction of the second order to the ground state energy.

The solution:

- (1) In the case of a square box, we can write the hamiltonian of a free particle:

$$\hat{H} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} (p_x^2 + p_y^2) \quad (1)$$

The particle is limited to be in the box so the boundary conditions of the wave functions are:

$$\psi(-a, y) = \psi(a, y) = \psi(x, a) = \psi(x, -a) = 0 \quad (2)$$

We can deal with the hamiltonian by separation of the variables x and y , and finding a solution of the form:

$$\psi(x, y) = X(x) \cdot Y(y) \quad (3)$$

The solution for each axis is of the form of an infinite well: $A_{n,m} \sin(k_x x) \sin(k_y y)$, while $k_x = \frac{\pi}{2a}n$; $k_y = \frac{\pi}{2a}m$, n, m - integers. Let us compute the normalization factor:

$$A_{n,m}^2 \int_{-a}^a \int_{-a}^a \sin^2(k_x x) \cos^2(k_y y) dx dy = 1 \quad (4)$$

$$A_{n,m}^2 \int_{-a}^a \left(\frac{1 - \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{2a}n \cdot x\right)}{2} \right) dx \int_{-a}^a \left(\frac{1 + \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{2a}m \cdot y\right)}{2} \right) dy = 1 \quad (5)$$

$$A_{n,m}^2 = \frac{1}{a^2} \rightarrow A_{n,m} = \frac{1}{a} \quad (6)$$

We can now write the eigenfunction of the hamiltonian:

$$\psi(x, y) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{a} \sin(k_x x) \sin(k_y y) & n, m = \text{even} \\ \frac{1}{a} \cos(k_x x) \cos(k_y y) & n, m = \text{odd} \\ \frac{1}{a} \sin(k_x x) \cos(k_y y) & n = \text{even}, m = \text{odd} \\ \frac{1}{a} \cos(k_x x) \sin(k_y y) & n = \text{odd}, m = \text{even} \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

and the energies :

$$E_{n,m} = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} (k_x^2 + k_y^2) = \frac{\hbar^2 \pi^2}{8ma^2} (n^2 + m^2) \quad (8)$$

The unperturbed ground state is achieved by choosing $n, m = 1$, so the wave function of the ground state is: $\frac{1}{a} \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2a}x\right) \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2a}y\right)$. The compatible energy is: $E_0 = \frac{\hbar^2}{4ma^2}$.

(2) The wave functions which are affected by the perturbation mentioned earlier are those that are not equal to zero at $x, y = 0$ (the place of the perturbation). We can conclude that the lowest three eigenstate achieved by choosing $n = 1, m = 3, n = 3, m = 1$ and $n, m = 3$. So the three talked-about eigenstates are:

$$\begin{aligned} |1\rangle &= \frac{1}{a} \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2a}3x\right) \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2a}y\right) \\ |2\rangle &= \frac{1}{a} \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2a}x\right) \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2a}3y\right) \\ |3\rangle &= \frac{1}{a} \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2a}3x\right) \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2a}3y\right) \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

and the energies:

$$E_1 = \frac{10\hbar^2\pi^2}{8ma^2} = E_2; E_3 = \frac{18\hbar^2\pi^2}{8ma^2} \quad (10)$$

(3) It can be immediately seen that H_0 is a diagonal matrix of the eigenvalues of the unperturbed hamiltonian. In order to find the matrix V we will compute: $\langle n|V|m\rangle = \langle n|u\delta(x)\delta(y)|m\rangle$.

$$\langle 0|V|0\rangle = \int_{-a}^a \int_{-a}^a \frac{1}{a} \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2a}x\right) \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2a}y\right) u\delta(x)\delta(y) \frac{1}{a} \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2a}x\right) \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2a}y\right) dx dy = \frac{u}{a^2} \quad (11)$$

It is obvious that all the combination will give the same result, because of the integral with the Delta function.

The wanted hamiltonian is:

$$H = H_0 + V = E_0 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 9 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{u}{a^2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (12)$$

(4) First of all, in order to use perturbation theory we must deal with the degeneracy between the states $|1\rangle$ and $|2\rangle$. We will change the base by using the Symmetric and Anti-Symmetric configurations:

$$|A\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|1\rangle + |2\rangle) \quad , \quad |S\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|1\rangle - |2\rangle) \quad (13)$$

By using the transformation matrix, built of the eigenstates $|0\rangle, |S\rangle, |A\rangle$ and $|4\rangle$ we get the new Hamiltonian:

$$\begin{aligned} P &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ P^T H P &= E_0 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 9 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{u}{a^2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \sqrt{2} & 0 & 1 \\ \sqrt{2} & 2 & 0 & \sqrt{2} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & \sqrt{2} & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \\ H_{new} &= E_0 \begin{pmatrix} 1 + \frac{u}{E_0 a^2} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 + \frac{2u}{E_0 a^2} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 9 + \frac{u}{E_0 a^2} \end{pmatrix} + \frac{u}{a^2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sqrt{2} & 0 & 1 \\ \sqrt{2} & 0 & 0 & \sqrt{2} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & \sqrt{2} & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

In equation number 14 above, one can see the energy with the first order correction.

$$\epsilon^{[0]} = \epsilon_{n_0}; \epsilon^{[1]} = V_{n_0, n_0} \rightarrow \epsilon_0 = E_0 + \frac{u}{a^2}; \epsilon_S = E_1 + \frac{2u}{a^2}; \epsilon_A = E_1; \epsilon_3 = E_3 + \frac{u}{a^2}$$

Now, as asked we will compute the eigenstates of the first order and present it as column vectors.

$$\Psi^{[1]} = \frac{V_{n, n_0}}{\epsilon_{n_0} - \epsilon_n}$$

We will mark $\frac{u}{a^2} = \lambda$ as accepted.

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi_0^{[1]} &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \frac{\sqrt{2} \frac{u}{a^2}}{-4E_0 - \frac{u}{a^2}} \\ 0 \\ \frac{u}{-8E_0 a^2} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \frac{\sqrt{2}\lambda}{-4E_0 - \lambda} \\ 0 \\ \frac{\lambda}{-8E_0 a^2} \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \Psi_0^{[0]} + \Psi_0^{[1]} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \frac{\sqrt{2}\lambda}{-4E_0 - \lambda} \\ 0 \\ \frac{\lambda}{-8E_0 a^2} \end{pmatrix} \\ \Psi_s^{[1]} &= \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\sqrt{2}\lambda}{4E_0 + \lambda} \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ \frac{\sqrt{2}\lambda}{-4E_0 + \lambda} \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \Psi_s^{[0]} + \Psi_s^{[1]} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\sqrt{2}\lambda}{4E_0 + \lambda} \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ \frac{\sqrt{2}\lambda}{-4E_0 + \lambda} \end{pmatrix} \\ \Psi_A^{[1]} &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \Psi_A^{[0]} + \Psi_A^{[1]} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ \Psi_3^{[1]} &= \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\lambda}{8E_0} \\ \frac{\sqrt{2}\lambda}{4E_0 - 2\lambda} \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \Psi_3^{[0]} + \Psi_3^{[1]} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\lambda}{8E_0} \\ \frac{\sqrt{2}\lambda}{4E_0 - 2\lambda} \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

(5) In order to Calculate the correction of the second order to the ground state energy we will use the expression:

$$\begin{aligned} \epsilon^{[2]} &= \sum_m \frac{V_{n_0, m} \cdot V_{m, n_0}}{\epsilon_{n_0} - \epsilon_m} = \{n_0 = 0\} = \frac{V_{0, S} \cdot V_{S, 0}}{-4E_0 - \lambda} + \frac{V_{0, A} \cdot V_{A, 0}}{-4E_0 + \lambda} + \frac{V_{0, 3} \cdot V_{3, 0}}{-8E_0} = \\ &= \frac{2\lambda^2}{-4E_0 - \lambda} + \frac{\lambda^2}{-8E_0} \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

As we know, the second order correction, for the ground state, will always be negative, and one can see it in the result that we got.