NPRE 447 & 521

Interaction of Radiation with Matter

Homework Assignments

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1 Homework 1

Attention:

1. 447 students should ONLY solve the problems without asterisks, and will not receive extra credit for solving the problems with asterisks.
   521 students should solve ALL problems.

2. Submit your homework pdf file to gradescope.com. The Entry Code is V8KYVG.

3. Explanation of the score: our brains typically consume about 0.2 Calories per minute. When actively thinking, our brains can kick it up to burning about 1 Calorie per minute. So instead of assigning each question with points, I will assign with Calories. For example, if a problem is given 10 Calories, it means you will need to burn about 10 Calories to solve the problem and the estimated time to solve the problem is about 10 minutes.

4. Because of the breath and depth of the content of the course, it is only possible to cover the essence during the lectures. One must read the relevant chapters in the textbooks to learn the details and gain deeper understandings. Some homework problems should be considered as supplementary or self-learning materials.

Readings:


- The entire Chapter 1
- Section 2.1 and Section 2.2
- * Section 2.6

1.1
Griffiths and Schroeter: Page 16, Problem 1.5. (30 Calories)

1.2
Griffiths and Schroeter: Page 76, Problem 2.37. (30 Calories)

1.3 *
Study Section 2.6 “The Finite Square Well” in Griffiths and Schroeter. Then consider a particle with energy $E$ in rectangular barrier potential:

$$V(x) = \begin{cases} V_0, & |x| \leq a \\ 0, & |x| > a \end{cases}$$

where $a > 0$ and $V_0 > 0$. For each case $0 < E < V_0$, $E = V_0$, and $E > V_0$, solve and sketch the wave functions, calculate the transmission and reflection coefficients $T$ and $R$, and find out the behavior of $T$ and $R$ when $V_0 \to \infty$. (60 Calories)
2 Homework 2

Readings:

- Section 2.3.2

2.1

The Hamiltonian of a 1-dimensional quantum harmonic oscillator is

\[ H = \frac{p^2}{2m} + \frac{1}{2} m \omega^2 x^2 \]

1. Solve the time-independent Schrödinger equation using the analytic method to show the eigenstate wave functions \( \psi_n(x) \) and the corresponding eigen energy \( E_n \) are

\[ \psi_n(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2^n n!}} \left( \frac{\lambda}{\pi} \right)^{1/4} \exp \left( -\frac{1}{2} \lambda x^2 \right) H_n \left( \sqrt{\lambda} x \right) \]

\[ E_n = \left( n + \frac{1}{2} \right) \hbar \omega \]

where \( \lambda = m \omega / \hbar \), \( H_n(x) = (-1)^n e^{x^2} \frac{d^n}{dx^n} e^{-x^2} \) are the Hermite polynomials. (30 Calories)

2. For \( n = 0, 1, 2 \), write down \( \psi_n(x) \) explicitly, produce computer plots of the wave functions \( \psi_n(x) \) and the square of the wave functions \( |\psi_n(x)|^2 \) on top of the potential. Attach your code. (15 Calories)

3. For \( n = 0, 1, 2 \), check the orthogonality of \( \psi_n(x) \) by explicit integrations. (15 Calories)

4. For \( n = 0, 1, 2 \), compute \( \langle x \rangle \), \( \langle x^2 \rangle \), \( \sigma_x \), \( \langle p \rangle \), \( \langle p^2 \rangle \), \( \sigma_p \). Compute the uncertainty relation quantity \( \sigma_x \sigma_p \). Check whether the uncertainty relation is satisfied. Which state is closest to the uncertainty limit? (15 Calories)

5. For \( n = 0, 1, 2 \), compute the expectation values of the kinetic energy \( \langle T \rangle \) and the potential energy \( \langle V \rangle \) by explicit integrations. (15 Calories)

6. If the particle starts out in the initial state

\[ \Psi(x, 0) = A [3 \psi_0(x) + 4 \psi_1(x)] \]

what is \( A \)? what is \( \Psi(x, t) \)? If we measure the energy of this particle, what values may we get and with what probabilities? What’s the expectation value of \( \langle H \rangle \)? (20 Calories)

2.2

Griffiths and Schroeter: Page 54, Problem 2.14. (20 Calories)
3 Homework 3

Readings:


- Section 2.3.1

3.1

Let's reconsider the 1-dimensional quantum harmonic oscillator

\[ H = T + V = \frac{p^2}{2m} + \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2 x^2 \]

using the ladder operators

\[ a = \sqrt{\frac{m\omega}{\hbar}} \left( x + \frac{ip}{m\omega} \right) \]

\[ a^\dagger = \sqrt{\frac{m\omega}{\hbar}} \left( x - \frac{ip}{m\omega} \right) \]

1. Solve \( x \) and \( p \) in terms of \( a \) and \( a^\dagger \). Show that the Hamiltonian operator can be written in terms of the ladder operators \( H = (N + \frac{1}{2})\hbar\omega \), where \( N = a^\dagger a \). (10 Calories)

2. Compute \([a, a^\dagger]\), \([N, a]\), and \([N, a^\dagger]\), where \( N = a^\dagger a \). (15 Calories)

3. Show that the energy eigenstates are \(|n⟩ = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n!}} (a^\dagger)^n |0⟩\) and the energy eigenvalues are \( E_n = (n + \frac{1}{2})\hbar\omega \). (20 Calories)

4. Sketch the wave functions of the first three eigen states (\( n = 0, 1, \) and \( 2 \)) in a harmonic potential. (5 Calories)

5. For the \( n^{th} \) energy eigenstate \(|n⟩\), compute the expectation values of \( ⟨x|n⟩, ⟨x^2|n⟩, ⟨p|n⟩, ⟨p^2|n⟩\), and the uncertainty relation quantity \( \sigma_x\sigma_p \). (10 Calories)

6. For the \( n^{th} \) energy eigenstate \(|n⟩\), compute the expectation values of the kinetic energy \( ⟨n|T|n⟩ \) and the potential energy \( ⟨n|V|n⟩ \). (10 Calories)

7. If the particle starts out in the initial state

\[ |Ψ(t = 0)⟩ = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |0⟩ + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |1⟩ \]

what is its state at time \( t \)? If we perform measurements of the total energy of the system at time \( t \), what do we get? Do they depend on time? (10 Calories)

8. Give one physical example of such quantum harmonic oscillators. Hint: one of such examples is a nuclear material. (10 Calories)

3.2

Griffiths and Schroeter: Page 60, Problem 2.17. (10 Calories)
4 Homework 4

Readings:

- Section 2.4
- Section 2.5

4.1
Griffiths and Schroeter: Page 69, Problem 2.22. (30 Calories)

4.2
In atomic and nuclear physics, many systems can be described by pseudo-potentials, such as the Fermi pseudo-potential $V(r) = \frac{2\pi\hbar^2}{m} b\delta(r)$ used in describing neutron scattering processes, where $b$ is the bound scattering length. Let’s consider a particle with mass $m$ in the 1-dimensional $\delta$-potential $V(x) = -\alpha\delta(x)$ where $\alpha > 0$ is the strength of the potential with the dimension of [EL].

1. Compute the bound state ($E < 0$) wave function and the corresponding eigen energy level(s). (30 Calories)

2. Compute the probability current of the wave function in Part 1. Explain the physical meaning of the result. (5 Calories)

3. Compute the transmitted and reflected wave functions of an incoming plane wave $\psi_i(x) = Ae^{ikx}$ ($E > 0$, scattering state). (30 Calories)

4. Compute the probability current on both sides of the potential in Part 3. Explain the physical meaning of the result. (10 Calories)

5. Compute the transmission coefficient $T$ and reflection coefficient $R$ in Part 3. (10 Calories)

6. Perform dimensional analysis on the eigen energy computed in Part 1, and the transmission and reflection coefficients computed in Part 5. (10 Calories)

7. What’s the asymptotic behavior of $T$ and $R$ if the potential is very deep, i.e. $\alpha \to \infty$? Explain the physical meaning. (5 Calories)

8. If we flip the potential, i.e. let $\alpha < 0$, do we still have bound states? How about the scattering state? (10 Calories)

4.3
Griffiths and Schroeter: Page 60, Problem 2.20. (40 Calories)
4.4

1. From the continuity equation
\[ \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{J} = 0 \]

derive the probability current
\[ \mathbf{J} = \frac{i\hbar}{2m}(\Psi \nabla \Psi^* - \Psi^* \nabla \Psi) = \frac{\hbar}{m} \text{Im}\{\Psi^* \nabla \Psi\} \]

(10 Calories)

2. Compute the probability current for the plain wave \( \Psi(x, t) = e^{i(kx - \omega t)} \). (10 Calories)

3. Compute the probability current for the spherical wave \( \Psi(r, t) = e^{i(kr - \omega t)}/r \). (10 Calories)

4.5 *

5 Homework 5

Readings:

- Section 3.1
- Section 3.2
- Section 3.3
- Section 3.4
- Section 3.6

5.1
Griffiths and Schroeter: Page 120, Problem 3.25. (30 Calories)

5.2
Griffiths and Schroeter: Page 120, Problem 3.26. (30 Calories)

5.3
Griffiths and Schroeter: Page 128, Problem 3.44. (30 Calories)

5.4 *
Consider a two-state system (e.g. a neutron or a proton with spin 1/2) with the following Hamiltonian

\[ H = \epsilon_1 (|\uparrow\rangle \langle \uparrow| + |\downarrow\rangle \langle \downarrow|) + \epsilon_2 (|\uparrow\rangle \langle \downarrow| + |\downarrow\rangle \langle \uparrow|) \]

1. What is the matrix representation of \( H \) in the \( |\uparrow\rangle \) and \( |\downarrow\rangle \) basis? (10 Calories)

2. Are \( |\uparrow\rangle \) and \( |\downarrow\rangle \) the eigen states of this system? If not, what are the eigen states and their corresponding eigen energies? (10 Calories)

3. If the system starts out in state \( |\Psi(0)\rangle = A(3|\uparrow\rangle + 4|\downarrow\rangle) \) for some constant \( A \),
   (a) Determine the constant \( A \)? (10 Calories)
   (b) What is the time-dependent solution \( |\Psi(t)\rangle \)? (10 Calories)
   (c) If we perform a measurement of the energy of the particle, what values may we get and with what probabilities? What’s the expectation value \( \langle H \rangle \)? (10 Calories)
6  Homework 6

Readings:

- Section 3.5

6.1
Griffiths and Schroeter: Page 124, Problem 3.33. (30 Calories)

6.2

6.3
*Macroscopic Quantum World:* The Planck constant (reduced) \( \bar{\hbar} \approx 1 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J} \cdot \text{s} \) plays a fundamental role in quantum mechanics. Imagine that one day you are teletransported to another universe, where the reduced Planck constant is \( 10^{34} \) times larger, i.e. \( \hbar \approx 1 \text{ J} \cdot \text{s} \). Let’s picture what strange phenomena you would expect.

1. First, derive the uncertainty principle

\[ \sigma_A \sigma_B \geq \frac{1}{2} |\langle [A, B] \rangle| \]

and state its the significance. (20 Calories)

2. Suppose you have a jar of candies in this quantum world. When you open the jar, estimate the escape velocities of the candies. Do you need to be careful when opening the jar? (A typical weight of a candy is 1 gram. A typical size of a jar is 10 cm.) (10 Calories)

3. Use your imagination, describe another two strange phenomena you would expect in this quantum world. Be as quantitative as possible. (20 Calories)

6.4 *
Griffiths and Schroeter: Page 124, Problem 3.34. (30 Calories)