



NTNU – Trondheim
Norwegian University of
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Department of Physics

Examination paper for

TFY4250/FY2045 Quantum Mechanics 1

(Kontinuasjonseksamen)

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Permitted examination support material:

Calculators, Rottmann (formula collection)

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Date

Signature

- 1) A particle of mass m is in the state

$$\psi(x, t) = A e^{-a\left[\left(\frac{mx^2}{\hbar}\right) + it\right]},$$

where A and a are positive real constants.

- Find A .
- For what potential energy function $V(x)$ does ψ satisfy the Schrodinger equation?
- Calculate the expectation values of x and p .

- 2) The Hamiltonian for a certain three-level system is represented by the matrix

$$\mathbf{H} = \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 & b \\ 0 & c & 0 \\ b & 0 & a \end{pmatrix},$$

where a , b and c are real numbers (assume that $a - c \neq \pm b$). If the system starts out in the state

$$|s(0)\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

what is $|s(t)\rangle$?

- 3) An electron is in the spin state

$$\chi = A \begin{pmatrix} 3i \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}.$$

- Determine the normalization constant A .
- Find the expectation values of S_x , S_y and S_z .
- Find the standard deviations σ_{S_x} , σ_{S_y} and σ_{S_z} .

- 4) Find the best bound E_{gs} for the one-dimensional harmonic oscillator using a trial wave function of the form

$$\psi(x) = \frac{A}{x^2 + b^2}$$

where A is determined by normalization and b is the adjustable parameter.

- 5) Consider a quantum system with just three linearly independent states. Suppose the Hamiltonian, in matrix form, is

$$\mathbf{H} = V_0 \begin{pmatrix} (1 - \varepsilon) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \varepsilon \\ 0 & \varepsilon & 2 \end{pmatrix},$$

where V_0 is a constant, and ε is some small number ($\varepsilon \ll 1$).

- Write down the eigenvectors and eigenvalues of the unperturbed Hamiltonian H^0 ($\varepsilon = 0$).
- Solve for the exact eigenvalues of $\mathbf{H}$. Expand each of them as a power series in ε , up to second order.
- Use first- and second-order non-degenerate perturbation theory to find the approximate eigenvalues for the state that grows out of the non-degenerate eigenvector of H^0 . Compare with the exact result.

Formulas:

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = \hat{H}\psi = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 \psi + V\psi$$

$$\sigma_x = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \sigma_y = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \sigma_z = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$E_n^{(2)} = \sum_m^{m \neq n} \frac{|\langle \psi_m^{(0)} | H_1 | \psi_n^{(0)} \rangle|^2}{E_n^{(0)} - E_m^{(0)}}$$