

L75-Two Level Systems

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* Time-Dependent Perturbation Theory

- Quantum statics: $\hat{H} = \hat{T} + \hat{V}$ independent of time
 $\Rightarrow$ TDSE separates into TISE (technique used till now)
 - can solve time dependence of wave function: $e^{-iE_n t/\hbar}$
 - but E_n still constant

- Quantum Dynamics: $\mathcal{H}(t)$
 - needed for transitions (quantum jumps)
 - example: atomic absorption & emission of radiation

* 2-level system (unperturbed)

$$\text{let } \mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}^0 + \mathcal{H}'(t) \quad \mathcal{H}^0 = \hat{T} + \hat{V}^0 \quad \mathcal{H}' = \text{time-dependent perturbation potential}$$

$$\mathcal{H}^0 \psi_a = E_a \psi_a \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{H}^0 \psi_b = E_b \psi_b \quad \Rightarrow \quad \langle \psi_i | \psi_j \rangle = \delta_{ij}$$

$$\psi(0) = c_a \psi_a + c_b \psi_b \quad \Rightarrow \quad \psi(t) = c_a \psi_a e^{-iE_a t/\hbar} + c_b \psi_b e^{-iE_b t/\hbar}$$

$$\text{normalization: } \langle \psi | \psi \rangle = |c_a|^2 + |c_b|^2 = 1$$

* Perturbed system:

$$\text{let } \psi(t) = c_a(t) \psi_a e^{-iE_a t/\hbar} + c_b(t) \psi_b e^{-iE_b t/\hbar} \quad (\psi_a, \psi_b \text{ complete basis})$$

$$\mathcal{H}\psi(t) - i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \psi = [\mathcal{H}^0 - i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t}] \psi(t) + \mathcal{H}'(t) \psi(t) = 0$$

$$= (-i\hbar \dot{c}_a + c_a \mathcal{H}') \psi_a e^{-iE_a t/\hbar} + (-i\hbar \dot{c}_b + c_b \mathcal{H}') \psi_b e^{-iE_b t/\hbar} = 0$$

$$\text{since } [\mathcal{H}^0 - i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t}] \psi_a e^{-iE_a t/\hbar} = 0, \text{ likewise for } b.$$

$$\text{matrix elements: take } \langle \psi_a | \text{ and } \langle \psi_b | : \quad \mathcal{H}'_{ij} = \langle \psi_i | \mathcal{H}' | \psi_j \rangle$$

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$$\langle \psi_a | -i\hbar \dot{c}_a + c_a \mathcal{H}' | \psi_a \rangle e^{iE_a t/\hbar} + \langle \psi_a | -i\hbar \dot{c}_b + c_b \mathcal{H}' | \psi_b \rangle e^{-iE_b t/\hbar} = 0$$

$$i\hbar \dot{c}_a = \underbrace{c_a \mathcal{H}'_{aa}}_{\text{typically vanish}} + c_b \mathcal{H}'_{ab} e^{-i\omega t} \quad \text{where } \hbar\omega_0 = E_b - E_a$$

$$i\hbar \dot{c}_b = c_b \mathcal{H}'_{bb} + c_a \mathcal{H}'_{ab} e^{i\omega t} \quad i\hbar \begin{pmatrix} \dot{c}_a \\ \dot{c}_b e^{-i\omega t} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{H}'_{aa} & \mathcal{H}'_{ab} \\ \mathcal{H}'_{ba} & \mathcal{H}'_{bb} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_a \\ c_b e^{-i\omega t} \end{pmatrix}$$

this is an exact equation: TDSE in $\mathcal{H}_0$ basis.

* Perturbation theory: $c_a^{(0)}, c_a^{(1)}, c_a^{(2)}, \dots$ successive approximations

stick $c_a^{(n)}, c_b^{(n)}$ into RHS, integrate $\int_0^t dt' i\hbar \dot{c}_{a,b}$ to get $c_{a,b}^{(n+1)}$ (LHS)

0th order: $c_a^{(0)}(t) = 1 \quad c_b^{(0)}(t) = 0$ [initial state a]

1st order: $i\hbar \dot{c}_a^{(1)} = c_b^{(0)} \mathcal{H}'_{ab} e^{-i\omega t} \quad c_a = 1$

$$i\hbar \dot{c}_b^{(1)} = c_a^{(0)} \mathcal{H}'_{ba} e^{i\omega t} \quad c_b^{(1)} = \frac{1}{i\hbar} \int_0^t dt' \mathcal{H}'_{ba}(t') e^{i\omega t'}$$

2nd order: $i\hbar \dot{c}_a^{(2)} = c_b^{(1)} \mathcal{H}'_{ab} e^{i\omega t} \quad c_a^{(2)} = 1 - \frac{1}{\hbar^2} \int_0^t \mathcal{H}'_{ab}(t) e^{-i\omega t} \left[\int_0^t \mathcal{H}'_{ba}(t') e^{i\omega t'} dt' \right] dt$

* Sinusoidal Perturbations: $\mathcal{H}' = V(\vec{r}) \cos(\omega t)$

$$\mathcal{H}'_{ab} = V_{ab} \cos \omega t \quad \text{where } V_{ab} = \langle \psi_a | V | \psi_b \rangle \text{ as usual}$$

$$c_b^{(1)} = \frac{1}{i\hbar} \int_0^t dt V_{ba} \cos \omega t e^{i\omega_0 t} = \frac{V_{ba}}{2i\hbar} \int_0^t dt' (e^{i(\omega_0 + \omega)t'} + e^{i(\omega_0 - \omega)t'})$$

$$= \frac{-V_{ba}}{2\hbar} \left[\frac{e^{i(\omega_0 + \omega)t} - e^0}{\omega_0 + \omega} + \frac{e^{i(\omega_0 - \omega)t} - e^0}{\omega_0 - \omega} \right]$$

$$\approx \frac{V_{ba}}{i\hbar} \frac{\sin(\frac{\omega_0 - \omega}{2} t)}{\omega_0 - \omega} e^{i\frac{\omega_0 - \omega}{2} t}$$

$$P_{a \rightarrow b}(t) = |C_b^{(1)}|^2 = \frac{|V_{ab}|^2}{\hbar^2} \frac{\sin^2(\frac{\omega - \omega_0}{2} t)}{(\omega - \omega_0)^2} \quad \text{for } |V_{ab}|^2 \ll \hbar^2 (\omega - \omega_0)^2$$

exact solution is called "Rabi flopping" (HW12)

