

Quantum mechanics in a nut-shell

- each **quantum mechanical system** is associated to a Hilbert **space** H (of **wave functions**)
- each dynamical **variable** (observable) is associated to a **hermitian operator** \hat{C} acting on elements of H
measurable values (observables) are **eigenvalues** of \hat{C} (discrete or continuous)

NOTE: *time is a parameter \rightarrow no operator to MEASURE time; indirectly from temporal evolution of other operators*

- Schrödinger equation (SEQ) ^(*) \rightarrow partial differential equation

$$i\hbar (\delta/\delta t) \Psi = \hat{H} \Psi$$

\hat{H} from Hamilton function via correspondence principle

time-independent SEQ

$$\hat{H} \Psi_n = E_n \Psi_n$$

\hat{H} contains total energy of the system

wave-functions / states $\Psi_n =$ eigenvectors of \hat{H}
total energy in a state $\Psi_n =$ eigenvalue E_n of \hat{H}

time-dependent SEQ

$$i\hbar (\delta/\delta t) \Psi(t) = \hat{H} \Psi(t)$$

$\Psi(t)$ superposition of Ψ_n

most relevant quantum mechanical systems

free particle

$$E = \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m}$$

planes waves, wave packets

particle in a box

$$E_n \sim \frac{n^2}{L^2}$$

harmonic oscillator
(parabolic potential $V=kx^2$)

$$E_n \sim \hbar\omega\left(n + \frac{1}{2}\right)$$

Hermite polynomials

coulomb potential, H atom

$$E_n \sim \frac{Z^2}{n^2}$$

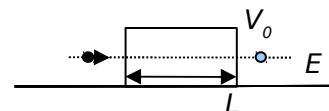
$(2l+1)$ x degenerate

$$\Psi_{nlm} = R_{nl}(r) \times Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi)$$

spherical harmonics $Y_{lm}(\phi, \theta)$, Laguerre polynomials
3 quantum numbers $\{n, l, m\}$

tunnelling

$$T \sim e^{-\frac{2}{\hbar} \sqrt{2m(V_0 - E)}L}$$



^(*) valid for pure states, for mixed states: PDE for density operator

approximations - perturbation theory

$$\hat{H} = \hat{H}_0 + \hat{H}_{int} \quad (\hat{H}_{int} \ll \hat{H}_0)$$

time-independent PT

$$E_n^{(1)} = \langle \psi_m^0 | \hat{H}_{int} | \psi_n^0 \rangle$$

$$\psi_n^{(1)} = \sum_m \frac{\langle \psi_m^0 | \hat{H}_{int} | \psi_n^0 \rangle}{E_m^0 - E_n^0} \psi_m^0$$

time-dependent PT

for \hat{H}_{int} periodic or constant in time

$$k_{if} = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} |\langle \psi_i | \hat{H}_{int} | \psi_f \rangle|^2 \delta(E_i - E_f)$$

(FERMI's Golden Rule)

→ transition rates

symmetries

\hat{S} is a symmetry operator if $[\hat{H}, \hat{S}] = 0$

\hat{H} and \hat{S} have common set of eigenvectors

for each system \hat{H} several \hat{S}_i can exist

each eigenvector fully determined by set of eigenvalues of \hat{H} and *all* \hat{S}_i

properties of \hat{S} can be used to solve SEQ

\hat{S} leads to a preserved quantity (NÖTHER theorem)
eigenvalues ↔ "good quantum numbers"

spin of particle determines how it interacts with identical particles

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|---|
| half-numbered spin: | fermions | Fermi distribution (PAULI principle) |
| integer spin: | bosons | Bose Einstein distribution |

spin cannot be derived within non-relativistic quantum mechanics

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particle in a box

harmonic oscillator

coulomb potential, H atom

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approximations - perturbation theory

time-independent PT

symmetries $[\hat{H}, \hat{S}] = 0$

\hat{H} and \hat{S} have common set of eigenvectors
(with different eigenvalues, to give)

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bound states: $E_n < 0$

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