

• Multiple Particles

(47)

- States + Wave functions

• We can choose our basis of states to be factorized (in principle). Call this factorized basis.

+ This is like separation of variables in Cartesian coordinates

in 3D: wavefunction $\Psi(\vec{x}) = X(x)Y(y)Z(z)$

or several angular momenta listed individually $|l, m\rangle |s, m_s\rangle$ for each

+ So we write the state

$$|\Psi\rangle = |\alpha\rangle_1 |\beta\rangle_2 \quad (\text{ie, particle 1 in state } \alpha, \text{ etc})$$

or, for the position-basis wavefunction

$$\langle \vec{x}_1, \vec{x}_2 | \Psi \rangle = \Psi(\vec{x}_1, \vec{x}_2) = \psi_\alpha(\vec{x}_1) \psi_\beta(\vec{x}_2)$$

• Distinguishable vs indistinguishable particles

+ Different types of particles (ie, #1 = electron, #2 = proton) are distinguishable. This is always true classically.

+ But particles of the same type (like 2 electrons) are indistinguishable even in principle. In that case, we can't tell if we've measured particle 1 or 2. States must allow each particle to be in each state b/c it's impossible to tell the difference. That is

$$|\Psi\rangle = a|\alpha\rangle_1 |\beta\rangle_2 + b|\beta\rangle_1 |\alpha\rangle_2 \quad \text{or} \quad \Psi(\vec{x}_1, \vec{x}_2) = a\psi_\alpha(\vec{x}_1)\psi_\beta(\vec{x}_2) + b\psi_\alpha(\vec{x}_2)\psi_\beta(\vec{x}_1)$$

• We can define the exchange operator E (text calls it P) that switches particles

$$E(|\alpha\rangle_1 |\beta\rangle_2) = |\beta\rangle_1 |\alpha\rangle_2 \quad \text{or} \quad E \cdot (\psi_\alpha(\vec{x}_1)\psi_\beta(\vec{x}_2)) = \psi_\alpha(\vec{x}_2)\psi_\beta(\vec{x}_1)$$

+ Clearly $E^2 = \text{identity}$. Eigenvalues are ± 1

+ Since the particles are indistinguishable, the Hamiltonian must be symmetric in exchange $[E, H] = 0$

So stationary states can be written in basis as E eigenstates

+ Therefore, it helps to work with states in E eigenbasis

$E = +1$
symmetric states

$E = -1$
antisymmetric states

$A =$ normalization constant (work out)

$|4\rangle = A[|\alpha\rangle_1|\beta\rangle_2 + |\beta\rangle_1|\alpha\rangle_2]$ $|4\rangle = A[|\alpha\rangle_1|\beta\rangle_2 - |\beta\rangle_1|\alpha\rangle_2]$

• Spin-Statistics Theorem // from relativity + QM (like spin itself)

+ Statement: Particles with integer spin ($s = 0, 1, \dots$) must have symmetric states (including spatial wavefunction, spin, etc).

Particles with odd-half-integer spin ($s = 1/2, 3/2, \dots$) must have antisymmetric states.

+ Integer spin particles are bosons (after Satyendra Nath Bose)

• Half-Integer spin particles are fermions (after Enrico Fermi)

+ Note: It is the total state that must be symmetric or antisymmetric. For example,

(symmetric spatial wavefunction $\psi(\vec{x}_1, \vec{x}_2)$) \times (antisymmetric spin state) is allowed for fermions. Most often useful to factorize this way.

+ Pauli Exclusion Principle: No 2 electrons can occupy the same state.

B/C electrons are fermions, and both in same state \Rightarrow symmetric state

• Exchange "Force"

Due to symmetry/antisymmetry, symmetric spatial wavefunctions bring particles closer, antisymmetric ones bring them apart.

+ To illustrate, consider expectation of $(x_1 - x_2)^2$ in 1D system.

For distinguishable particles in factorizable state $|\alpha\rangle, |\beta\rangle$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle (x_1 - x_2)^2 \rangle &= \langle \alpha | x_1^2 | \alpha \rangle \langle \beta | \beta \rangle + \langle \alpha | \alpha \rangle \langle \beta | x_2^2 | \beta \rangle - 2 \langle \alpha | x_1 | \alpha \rangle \langle \beta | x_2 | \beta \rangle \\ &= \langle x^2 \rangle_\alpha + \langle x^2 \rangle_\beta - 2 \langle x \rangle_\alpha \langle x \rangle_\beta \end{aligned}$$

+ Consider symmetric/antisymmetric states $|\psi_\pm\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|\alpha\rangle, |\beta\rangle \pm |\beta\rangle, |\alpha\rangle)$
(Working out the same steps,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle (x_1 - x_2)^2 \rangle &= \langle x^2 \rangle_\alpha + \langle x^2 \rangle_\beta - 2 \langle x \rangle_\alpha \langle x \rangle_\beta \mp (\langle \alpha | x_1 | \beta \rangle \langle \beta | x_2 | \alpha \rangle + \langle \beta | x_1 | \alpha \rangle \langle \alpha | x_2 | \beta \rangle) \\ &= \langle x^2 \rangle_\alpha + \langle x^2 \rangle_\beta - 2 \langle x \rangle_\alpha \langle x \rangle_\beta \mp 2 |x_{\alpha\beta}|^2 \end{aligned}$$

← general matrix element

+ Symmetric spatial states have shorter separations + vice versa.

+ Fermions can have symmetric spatial wavefunctions (with antisymmetric spin states). So they can pull closer (as in covalent bonds $\oplus (e^-) \oplus$) or repulse.

+ The matrix element $x_{\alpha\beta} = \int dx \psi_\alpha^*(x) x \psi_\beta(x) \rightarrow 0$ unless ψ_α and ψ_β are both non zero in the same place. In other words, well-separated identical particles act distinguishable + don't interfere.
This is sometimes called cluster decomposition.

- Atoms (of the multi-electron variety)

• Hamiltonian for nucleus with Z protons (+ therefore Z e⁻ in atom)

$$H = \sum_{j=1}^Z \left[\frac{\vec{p}_j^2}{2m} - \left(\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \right) \frac{Ze^2}{|\vec{r}_j|} \right] + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \neq j} \left(\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \right) \frac{e^2}{|\vec{r}_i - \vec{r}_j|}$$

+ Looks like each electron sees a hydrogen Hamiltonian w/ Z charges in nucleus. (1st terms) plus Coulomb repulsion from each other electron.

+ No one has solved this exactly. (we may try approximations later). To get a feel, we will treat electron repulsion heuristically.

• Helium

+ The ground state puts both electrons in the "hydrogen-like" $n=1$, $l=0$ state. Spins anti-align in singlet ($s=0$) state.

+ Excited states: only 1 electron excited

1) If both are excited, it decays + ionizes quickly

2) Parahelium: $s=0$ antisymmetric spin, symmetric spatial state
 e^- are closer together, so Coulomb repulsion increases energy

3) Orthohelium $s=1$ symmetric spin, antisymmetric spatial state
 e^- are farther apart, Coulomb repulsion is less, so lower E.

• Other atoms: Key point is that larger $\langle r \rangle$ means other electrons "screen" the charge of the nucleus.

+ Notation: label l by a letter ($l=0$) = s, ($l=1$) = p, ($l=2$) = d, ($l=3$) = f, ($l=4$) = g, ... (skip j)

So indicate electron states by occupancy of hydrogen-like shells

+ then

He = $(1s)^2$, Li = $(1s)^2(2s)^1$, etc across periodic table but the nd shell is farther out + more screened than $(n+1)s$ shell.

Similarly for nf and $(n+2)s$. So that's why the "indented" parts come a row or 2 late.

+ Other notation for the total angular momentum.

let L = total orbital angular momentum (meaning, addition of l_1, l_2, \dots)
 S = total spin quantum number, quantum number

J = total angular momentum quantum number (from adding $L+S$ states)

Then represent electron configuration by

$2S+1$
total # of spin states
 J
written "S", "P", etc.

See examples.