PHYS-4601 Homework 17 Due 6 Mar 2014

This homework is due in the dropbox outside 2L26 by 11:59PM on the due date. If you wish to turn it in ahead of time, you may email a PDF or give a hardcopy to Dr. Frey.

1. **Sharp Kick**

   Consider a particle initially in the ground state of a 1D infinite square well with potential

   $$V(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & 0 < x < a \\ \infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} . \tag{1}$$

   At time $t = 0$, the particle receives a kick in the form of a time-dependent potential $\alpha \cos(\pi x/a)\delta(t)$ for small α. What is the probability that the particle is in the first excited state after $t = 0$?

2. **Some Sinusoidal Perturbations**

   Consider a spin-1/2 particle (for example, a proton) with gyromagnetic ratio γ in the presence of a magnetic field

   $$\vec{B} = B_0\hat{z} + B_1\cos(\omega t)\hat{x} - B_1\sin(\omega t)\hat{y} \tag{2}$$

   at its fixed position. This is a magnetic field with a fixed z component and another component rotating in the x, y plane.

   (a) Write the Hamiltonian either as a matrix or in terms of spin operators and show that it takes the form $H = H_0 + Ve^{-i\omega t} + V^\dagger e^{i\omega t}$.

   (b) Assume that the rotating field B_1 is much smaller than B_0. If the spin is initially spin up at $t = 0$, find the transition probability to spin down at a later time t using perturbation theory. *Hint:* Consider the states in the Hamiltonian H_0 and their energy differences first.

   (c) It is also possible to find this transition probability exactly. With the initial conditions given in part (b), the solution of the time-dependent Schrödinger equation is

   $$\begin{aligned} \langle +|\Psi(t)\rangle &= e^{i\omega t/2}\left[\cos(\alpha t/2) - i\frac{(\omega - \gamma B_0)}{\alpha}\sin(\alpha t/2)\right] \\ \langle -|\Psi(t)\rangle &= ie^{-i\omega t/2}\frac{\gamma B_1}{\alpha}\sin(\alpha t/2) \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

   with $\alpha = \sqrt{\gamma^2 B_1^2 + (\omega - \gamma B_0)^2}$. Now use Maple to verify that (3) solves the Schrödinger equation. Input the Schrödinger equation and initial conditions as a list of equations and then the solution above as another list. Then use the `odetest` function in Maple to check that (3) solves the time-dependent Schrödinger equation. Include a copy of your Maple code.

   (d) Use (3) to find the transition probability from spin up ($|+\rangle$) to spin down ($|-\rangle$). Find the conditions that this probability is one. Finally, show that it reduces to the perturbation theory result when $\gamma B_1 \ll \omega - \gamma B_0$.

3. **Fermi's Golden Rule**

   Consider a sinusoidal perturbation Hamiltonian $H_1 = Ve^{-i\omega t} + V^\dagger e^{+i\omega t}$. In the class notes, we found the probability for a transition from state $|1\rangle$ to $|2\rangle$ as a function of time and frequency

ω. In the following, define $\hbar\omega_0 = E_2 - E_1$, the difference of the energy eigenvalues of the unperturbed Hamiltonian H_0. We will investigate the transition probability near $\omega = \omega_0$ at large t (at least as long as the probability stays small).

(a) At a fixed (and large) time, the probability is peaked at $\omega = \omega_0$. Using L'Hospital's rule or just a power series expansion, find the peak transition probability as a function of time.

(b) Find the values of ω where the probability first vanishes on either side of $\omega = \omega_0$. The difference in these two values tells us the width of the peak.

(c) For large enough times, approximate the transition probability as a rectangle with the peak value from part (a) and width given by half the difference in part (b). Integrate this approximate probability function and argue that

$$P \to \frac{2\pi |V_{21}|^2}{\hbar^2} t\delta(\omega_0 - \omega) \tag{4}$$

as $t \to \infty$.

This problem shows two things: first, transitions occur only to states at energies related by the perturbation frequency and, second, that there is a constant transition rate (probability per unit time) to the appropriate states. The relationship (4) is known as *Fermi's Golden Rule.*