1. In a quantum system, the Eigen energy and wavefunctions are  $E_n, \psi_n, n=0,1,2,\cdots$ . When  $t\leq 0$ , the system is in the ground state of  $E_0, \psi_0$ . A perturbation occurs for  $t\geq 0$ , which is  $H'(t)=Fe^{-t/\tau}$ . Calculate the probabilities for the system evolves into the state of  $E_n, \psi_n$  when  $t\geq 0$ .

Let's define

$$\begin{split} F_{n0} &= \langle \psi_n | F(x) | \psi_0 \rangle \\ c_n^{(1)}(t) &= -\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_0^t H_{n0}'(t') e^{i\omega_{n0}t'} dt' = -\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_0^t F_{n0} e^{-\frac{t'}{\tau}} e^{i\omega_{n0}t'} dt' = -\frac{iF_{n0}}{\hbar} \int_0^t e^{i\omega_{n0}t' - \frac{t'}{\tau}} dt' \\ &= -\frac{iF_{n0}}{\hbar} \int_0^t e^{i\omega_{n0}t' - \frac{t'}{\tau}} dt' = \frac{F_{n0} \left( e^{i\omega_{n0}t - t/\tau} - 1 \right)}{-\hbar\omega_{n0} - i\hbar/\tau} \\ & \left| c_n^{(1)}(t) \right|^2 = \frac{\left| F_{n0} \right|^2 \left| e^{i\omega_{n0}t - \frac{t}{\tau}} - 1 \right|^2}{(\hbar\omega_{n0})^2 + (\hbar/\tau)^2} \end{split}$$

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$$\left| c_n^{(1)}(t) \right|^2 = \frac{|F_{n0}|^2}{(\hbar \omega_{n0})^2 + (\hbar/\tau)^2}$$

2. (Text book\* Problem 11.3)

Solve Equation 11.17 for the case of a *time-independent* perturbation, assuming that  $c_a(0)=1$  and  $c_b(0)=0$ . Check that  $|c_a(t)|^2+|c_b(t)|^2=1$ . Comment: Ostensibly, this system oscillates between "pure  $\psi_a$ " and "some  $\psi_b$ ". Doesn't this contradict my general assertion that no transitions occur for time-independent perturbations? No, but the reason is rather subtle: In this case  $\psi_a$  and  $\psi_b$  are not, and never were, eigenstates of the Hamiltonian—a measurement of the energy *never* yields  $E_a$  or  $E_b$ . In time-dependent perturbation theory we typically contemplate turning *on* the perturbation for a while, and then turning it *off* again, in order to examine the system. At the beginning, and at the end,  $\psi_a$  and  $\psi_b$  are eigenstates of the exact Hamiltonian, and only in this context does it make sense to say that the system underwent a transition from one to the other. For the present problem, then, assume that the perturbation was turned on at time t=0, and off again at time t—this doesn't affect the *calculations*, but it allows for a more sensible interpretation of the result.

$$\begin{cases} \dot{c}_{a} = -\frac{i}{\hbar} H'_{ab} e^{-i\omega_{0}t} c_{b} \\ \dot{c}_{b} = -\frac{i}{\hbar} H'_{ba} e^{i\omega_{0}t} c_{a} \end{cases}$$

$$\ddot{c}_a = -i\omega_0 \dot{c}_a - \frac{i}{\hbar} H'_{ab} e^{-i\omega_0 t} \dot{c}_b = -i\omega_0 \dot{c}_a - \frac{1}{\hbar^2} H'_{ab} H'_{ba} c_a$$

$$\ddot{c}_a + i\omega_0\dot{c}_a + \frac{1}{\hbar^2}H'_{ab}H'_{ba}c_a = 0$$

Assume

$$c_{\alpha} = e^{\lambda t}$$

We get

$$\lambda^2 + i\omega_0 \lambda + \frac{|H'_{ab}|^2}{\hbar^2} = 0$$

$$\lambda = \frac{1}{2} \left( -i\omega_0 \pm i \sqrt{-\omega_0^2 - \frac{4}{\hbar^2} |H'_{ab}|^2} \right) = \frac{i}{2} (-\omega_0 \pm \omega)$$

where

$$\omega \equiv \sqrt{-\omega_0^2 - \frac{4}{\hbar^2} \left| H'_{ab} \right|^2}$$

The general solution is

$$c_b(0) = 1, : C_4 = \frac{i\omega_0}{\omega}$$

$$c_a(t) = e^{-\frac{i}{2}\omega_0 t} \left[ \cos\left(\frac{\omega t}{2}\right) + \frac{i\omega_0}{\omega} \sin\left(\frac{\omega t}{2}\right) \right]$$

$$c_b(t) = \frac{\hbar}{iH'_{ab}} e^{\frac{i}{2}\omega_0 t} \left( -\frac{\omega_0^2}{2\omega} + \frac{\omega}{2} \right) \sin\left(\frac{\omega t}{2}\right) = \frac{2H'_{ba}}{i\hbar\omega} e^{\frac{i}{2}\omega_0 t} \sin\left(\frac{\omega t}{2}\right)$$

$$|c_a(t)|^2 + |c_b(t)|^2 = \cos^2\left(\frac{\omega t}{2}\right) + \left(\frac{\omega_0}{\omega}\right)^2 \sin^2\left(\frac{\omega t}{2}\right) + \frac{4|H'_{ab}|^2}{\hbar^2 \omega^2} \sin^2\left(\frac{\omega t}{2}\right)$$
$$= \cos^2\left(\frac{\omega t}{2}\right) + \left(\frac{\omega_0}{\omega}\right)^2 + \frac{\omega^2 - \omega_0^2}{\omega^2} \sin^2\left(\frac{\omega t}{2}\right) = 1$$

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<sup>\*</sup> David J. Griffiths, and Darrell F. Schroeter, Introduction to Quantum Mechanics (3rd Edition), Cambridge University Press (2018).