0.1 Homework 5

0.1.1 Quantum Rotor Model

The angular coordinate of a quatum rotor is $\theta \in [0, 2\pi)$, note that $\theta \pm 2\pi$ and θ are equivalent. The eigenstate of the operator $\hat{\theta}$ is represented by $|\theta\rangle$, and $\theta \pm 2\pi\rangle$ represents the same state as $|\theta\rangle$. Define the rotation operator for the quantum rotator as $\hat{R}(\alpha)$,

$$\hat{R}(\alpha) = \int_0^{2\pi} \mathrm{d}\theta |\theta - \alpha\rangle\langle\theta|$$

Thus $\hat{R}(\alpha)|\theta\rangle = |\theta - \alpha\rangle$, and $\hat{R}(2\pi)$ is the identity operator.

The rotation operator $\hat{R}(\alpha)$ is a unitary operator, its generator is the Hermitian operator $\hat{N}$, which is related to the angular momentum operator of the quantum rotator $\hat{L}$ by $\hat{L} = \hbar\hat{N}$, so $\hat{R}(\alpha) = e^{i\hat{N}\alpha}$, and in the $\hat{\theta}$ representation, we have $\hat{N} = -i\frac{\partial}{\partial\theta}$.

Consider a specific quantum rotor model, its Hamiltonian is

$$\hat{H} = \frac{1}{2}\left(\hat{N} - \frac{1}{2}\right)^2 - g\cos 2\hat{\theta}$$

where $g\cos 2\hat{\theta}$ is a small external potential, which can be treated as a perturbation. Assuming $|N\rangle$ is the eigenstate of the operator $\hat{N}$ with eigenvalue N, i.e., $\hat{N}|N\rangle = N|N\rangle$. It can be calculated that $|N\rangle$ is expanded in terms of $|\theta\rangle$ as

$$|N\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_0^{2\pi} \mathrm{d}\theta e^{iN\theta}|\theta\rangle$$

1. **Use the fact that $\hat{R}(2\pi)$ is the identity operator to prove that N must be an integer.**

2. **Consider the unperturbed Hamiltonian $\hat{H}_0 = \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{1}{2}\hat{N} - \frac{1}{2}\right)^2$, prove that $|N\rangle$ is also an eigenstate of $\hat{H}_0$, and find its eigenenergy, demonstrating that each energy level is doubly degenerate.**

3. **Using the basis set $\{|N\rangle\}$, write down the representation matrix for the perturbation term $\hat{V} = -g\cos 2\hat{\theta}$, and prove that the perturbation does not connect degenerate levels (i.e., if $|N\rangle$ and $|N'\rangle$ are degenerate, then $\langle N|\hat{V}|N'\rangle = 0$). Therefore, although the energy levels of $\hat{H}_0$ are degenerate, we can still use non-degenerate perturbation theory.**

4. **Calculate the perturbation correction to each energy level E_N up to second order in g, and prove that all degeneracies of the energy levels remain unlifted.**