

Homework 2

Quantum Mechanics

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Problem 1. *Problem 1.12 from Sakurai*

Solution.

If we choose the representation such that $|1\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $|2\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$ then we can use the definition of the outer product to show that

$$H = a \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

The energy eigenvalues are then found by

$$\begin{aligned} \det(H - \lambda I) &= \det \begin{pmatrix} a - \lambda & a \\ a & -a - \lambda \end{pmatrix} \\ &= (a - \lambda)(-a - \lambda) - a^2 \\ &= \lambda^2 - 2a^2 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

therefore $E_{\pm} = \pm\sqrt{2}a$. The $+$ eigenvector $|\psi_1\rangle$ is given by the system

$$\begin{aligned} (\psi_1^1 + \psi_1^2) &= \sqrt{\frac{2}{a}}\psi_1^1 \\ (\psi_1^1 - \psi_1^2) &= \sqrt{\frac{2}{a}}\psi_1^2 \end{aligned}$$

The $-$ eigenvector $|\psi_2\rangle$ is given by the system

$$\begin{aligned} (\psi_2^1 + \psi_2^2) &= -\sqrt{\frac{2}{a}}\psi_2^1 \\ (\psi_2^1 - \psi_2^2) &= -\sqrt{\frac{2}{a}}\psi_2^2 \end{aligned}$$

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Problem 2. *Problem 1.13 from Sakurai*

Solution.

Writing H out in matrix form gives

$$\begin{aligned} H &= H_{11} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} + H_{12} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} + H_{22} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} H_{11} + H_{12} + H_{22} + 1 & H_{11} - H_{12} - H_{22} + 1 \\ H_{11} - H_{12} + H_{22} - 1 & H_{11} + H_{12} - H_{22} - 1 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

$$\det(H - \lambda I) = \det \begin{pmatrix} H_{11} + H_{12} + H_{22} + 1 - \lambda & H_{11} - H_{12} - H_{22} + 1 \\ H_{11} - H_{12} + H_{22} - 1 & H_{11} + H_{12} - H_{22} - 1 - \lambda \end{pmatrix}$$

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Problem 3. *Problem 1.15 from Sakurai*

Solution.

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Problem 4. *Problem 1.16 from Sakurai*

Solution.

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Problem 5. *Problem 1.23 from Sakurai*

Solution.

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Problem 6. *Problem 1.24 from Sakurai*

Solution.

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