PHYS2581 Foundations 2A: QM2.7

A hydrogen atom is subjected to a perturbation from an external electric field $E_{\rm ext}$ in the z direction, hence $H' = eE_{\rm ext}r\cos\theta$.

- (a) The unperturbed n=1 level in Hydrogen is non-degenerate (ignoring spin) and has wavefunction $\psi_{100}^0=(\pi a^3)^{-1/2}e^{-r/a}$. Show that there is no first order correction to the ground state energy, i.e., $E_1^1=\int \psi_{100}^{0*}H'\psi_{100}^0dV=0$
- (b) The unperturbed n=2 level in Hydrogen is 4-fold degenerate, with energy eigenfunctions

$$\varphi_1 \equiv \psi_{200}^0 = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2\pi a}} \frac{1}{2a} \left(1 - \frac{r}{2a} \right) e^{-r/2a}$$

$$\varphi_2 \equiv \psi_{211}^0 = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi a}} \frac{r}{8a^2} e^{-r/2a} \sin \theta e^{i\phi}$$

$$\varphi_3 \equiv \psi_{210}^0 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi a}} \frac{r}{4a^2} e^{-r/2a} \cos \theta$$

$$\varphi_4 \equiv \psi_{21-1}^0 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi a}} \frac{r}{8a^2} e^{-r/2a} \sin \theta e^{-i\phi}$$

Use degenerate perturbation theory to determine the first order correction, E_2^1 , to the n=2 level by writing down a 4×4 matrix equation with terms $W_{jk} = \langle \varphi_j | H' | \varphi_k \rangle$ for j, k=1,2,3,4. [Hint: do the angle integrals first, as many of these turn out to be zero!]

- (c) Solve the matrix to determine all possible values of E_2^1 . Into how many different energy levels does n=2 split?
- (d) Write down the wavefunctions $\chi = \alpha |\varphi_1\rangle + \beta |\varphi_2\rangle + \gamma |\varphi_3\rangle + \delta |\varphi_4\rangle$ for which we could have used non-degenerate perturbation theory.

Useful Integrals:

$$\int_0^\infty x^p e^{-qx} dx = \frac{p!}{q^{p+1}}$$