

### 3. Tritium Beta Decay

The tritium nucleus is radioactive and decays to  $He^3$  with the emission of an electron and an antineutrino ( $T \rightarrow He^3 + e^- + \bar{\nu}$ ).

(a) Assuming that the electron in the tritium atom is originally in its ground state, what is the probability of finding the electron in the resulting  $He^3$  ion also in its  $1s$  ground state immediately after the decay? You can assume that, as far as the electron is concerned, all that happens is that the nucleus suddenly changes its charge from  $+1$  to  $+2$ . The other newly-produced electron is emitted with such high energy that it effectively leaves the atom immediately.

(b) What are the probabilities of finding the electron in the  $He^3$  ion in each of its three  $2p$  excited states immediately after the decay?

(c) What is the expectation value of the energy of the atomic electron immediately after the decay (old wave function, new Hamiltonian)?