

© Kamal K. Barley, Andreas Ruffing, and Sergei K. Suslov

“Old Quantum Mechanics by Bohr and Sommerfeld from a Modern Perspective”

arXiv:2506.00408v3 [quant-ph] 18 June 2025

(Last modified/executed on June 25, 2025; 10:42 AM Arizona time.)

---

Here, from (3.17)-(3.18), we derive the expansion (3.19) for the relativistic Schrödinger equation (3.14).

$$\text{In[*]} := \text{EnergyRelSchr}[\mu_] := \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \frac{\mu^2}{\left(n + \frac{1}{2} + \sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{2} + 1\right)^2 - \mu^2}\right)^2}}}$$

$\text{In[*]} := \text{Simplify}[\text{PowerExpand}[\text{Series}[\text{EnergyRelSchr}[\mu], \{\mu, 0, 5\}, \text{Assumptions} \rightarrow 2 * 1 + 1 > 0]]]$

$$\text{Out[*]} = 1 - \frac{\mu^2}{2(1 + 1 + n)^2} - \frac{(5 + 21 + 8n)\mu^4}{8(1 + 21)(1 + 1 + n)^4} + O[\mu]^6$$

$\text{In[*]} := \text{FullSimplify}[\% /. n \rightarrow n - 1 - 1]$

$$\text{Out[*]} = 1 - \frac{\mu^2}{2n^2} + \frac{\left(3 - \frac{8n}{1+21}\right)\mu^4}{8n^4} + O[\mu]^6$$

This is the nonrelativistic expansion (3.19).

Section 6: A “mistake” that Schrödinger never made:

$\text{In[*]} := \text{Simplify}[\text{EnergyRelSchr}[\mu] /. n \rightarrow n - 1 / 2]$

$$\text{Out[*]} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \frac{\mu^2}{\left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} + n + \sqrt{\frac{1}{4} + 1 + 1^2 - \mu^2}\right)^2}}}$$

$\text{In[*]} := \text{FullSimplify}[\text{PowerExpand}[\text{Series}[\%, \{\mu, 0, 5\}, \text{Assumptions} \rightarrow 1 > 0]]]$

$$\text{Out[*]} = 1 - \frac{2\mu^2}{(2 + 1 + 2n)^2} + \frac{2(-5 + 21 - 8n)\mu^4}{(1 + 21)(2 + 1 + 2n)^4} + O[\mu]^6$$

Thus, the non-relativistic term is given by:

$$\text{In[*]} := -\frac{\mu^2}{2 * (1 + 1 / 2 + n)^2}$$

$$\text{Out[*]} = -\frac{\mu^2}{2\left(1 + \frac{1}{2} + n\right)^2}$$

$$\text{In[*]} := (* \text{ Indeed } *) \text{Simplify}\left[\frac{-2 \mu^2}{(2 + 1 + 2 n)^2} - \%\right]$$

Out[\*]=

$$0$$

Here, from (3.22), we derive the expansion (3.24) for the Dirac equation (3.20).

$$\text{In[*]} := \frac{1}{\text{Sqrt}[1 + \mu^2 / (n + v)^2]}$$

Out[\*]=

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \frac{\mu^2}{(n+v)^2}}}$$

$$\text{In[*]} := \text{EnergyDirac}[\mu\_ ] = \% /. v \rightarrow \text{Sqrt}[(j + 1/2)^2 - \mu^2]$$

Out[\*]=

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \frac{\mu^2}{\left(n + \sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{2} + j\right)^2 - \mu^2}\right)^2}}}$$

$$\text{In[*]} := \text{Simplify}[\text{PowerExpand}[\text{Series}[\text{EnergyDirac}[\mu], \{\mu, 0, 5\}, \text{Assumptions} \rightarrow 2 * j + 1 > 0]]]$$

Out[\*]=

$$1 - \frac{2 \mu^2}{(1 + 2 j + 2 n)^2} - \frac{2 (1 + 2 j + 8 n) \mu^4}{(1 + 2 j) (1 + 2 j + 2 n)^4} + O[\mu]^6$$

$$\text{In[*]} := \text{FullSimplify}[\% /. n \rightarrow n - j - 1/2]$$

Out[\*]=

$$1 - \frac{\mu^2}{2 n^2} + \frac{\left(3 - \frac{8 n}{1 + 2 j}\right) \mu^4}{8 n^4} + O[\mu]^6$$

This is the expansion (3.24), indeed:

$$\text{In[*]} := 1 - \frac{\mu^2}{2 n^2} + \frac{\left(\frac{3}{4} - \frac{n}{\frac{1}{2} + j}\right) \mu^4}{2 n^4} + O[\mu]^6$$

Out[\*]=

$$1 - \frac{\mu^2}{2 n^2} + \frac{\left(\frac{3}{4} - \frac{n}{\frac{1}{2} + j}\right) \mu^4}{2 n^4} + O[\mu]^6$$

$$\text{In[*]} := \text{Simplify}[\text{Out[*]} - \%]$$

Out[\*]=

$$O[\mu]^6$$

Next term in (3.24) for the Dirac equation.

$$\text{In[*]} := \text{EnergyDiracExp}[\mu\_ ] = 1 - \frac{2 \mu^2}{(1 + 2 j + 2 n)^2} - \frac{2 (1 + 2 j + 8 n) \mu^4}{(1 + 2 j) (1 + 2 j + 2 n)^4}$$

Out[\*]=

$$1 - \frac{2 \mu^2}{(1 + 2 j + 2 n)^2} - \frac{2 (1 + 2 j + 8 n) \mu^4}{(1 + 2 j) (1 + 2 j + 2 n)^4}$$

In[\*]:= **EnergyDirac**[ $\mu$ ] - **EnergyDiracExp**[ $\mu$ ]

Out[\*]=

$$-1 + \frac{2\mu^2}{(1+2j+2n)^2} + \frac{2(1+2j+8n)\mu^4}{(1+2j)(1+2j+2n)^4} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \frac{\mu^2}{\left(n + \sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{2}+j\right)^2 - \mu^2}\right)^2}}}$$

In[\*]:= **Simplify**[**PowerExpand**[

**Series**[**EnergyDirac**[ $\mu$ ] - **EnergyDiracExp**[ $\mu$ ], { $\mu$ , 0, 7}, **Assumptions** →  $2*j+1 > 0$ ]]]

Out[\*]=

$$-\frac{4(1+8j^3+12n+48n^2+16n^3+12j^2(1+4n)+6j(1+4n)^2)\mu^6}{(1+2j)^3(1+2j+2n)^6} + O[\mu]^8$$

In[\*]:= **FullSimplify**[% /.  $n \rightarrow n - j - 1/2$ ]

Out[\*]=

$$-\frac{(5(1+2j)^3 - 24(1+2j)^2n + 24(1+2j)n^2 + 16n^3)\mu^6}{16((1+2j)^3n^6)} + O[\mu]^8$$

The last term can be rewritten as follows:

$$\text{In[*]} := -\frac{\mu^6}{16n^3} * \left( \frac{5}{n^3} - \frac{24}{(1+2j)n^2} + \frac{24}{(1+2j)^2n} + \frac{16}{(1+2j)^3} \right)$$

Out[\*]=

$$-\frac{\left( \frac{16}{(1+2j)^3} + \frac{5}{n^3} - \frac{24}{(1+2j)n^2} + \frac{24}{(1+2j)^2n} \right)\mu^6}{16n^3}$$

In[\*]:= **Simplify**[%17 -  $\mathcal{O}^*$ ]

Out[\*]=

$$O[\mu]^8$$

The next term can also be rewritten as in (3.26):

$$\text{In[*]} := -\frac{\mu^6}{4n^6} * \left( \frac{5}{4} - \frac{3*n}{j+1/2} + \frac{3*n^2}{2*(j+1/2)^2} + \frac{n^3}{2*(j+1/2)^3} \right)$$

Out[\*]=

$$-\frac{\left( \frac{5}{4} - \frac{3n}{\frac{1}{2}+j} + \frac{3n^2}{2\left(\frac{1}{2}+j\right)^2} + \frac{n^3}{2\left(\frac{1}{2}+j\right)^3} \right)\mu^6}{4n^6}$$

In[\*]:= **Simplify**[%18 -  $\mathcal{O}^*$ ]

Out[\*]=

$$0$$

In[\*]:= **Quit**[]

Next terms as in (3.26)-(3.27) together:

$$\text{In}[1] := \frac{1}{\text{Sqrt}[1 + \mu^2 / (n + v)^2]}$$

Out[1]=

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \frac{\mu^2}{(n+v)^2}}}$$

In[2]:= **EnergyDirac**[ $\mu_{-}$ ] = % /.  $v \rightarrow \text{Sqrt}[(j + 1/2)^2 - \mu^2]$

$$\text{Out[2]} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \frac{\mu^2}{\left(n + \sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{2} + j\right)^2 - \mu^2}\right)^2}}}$$

In[3]:= **Simplify**[**PowerExpand**[**Series**[**EnergyDirac**[ $\mu$ ], { $\mu$ , 0, 9}], **Assumptions**  $\rightarrow 2 * j + 1 > 0$ ]]

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Out[3]} = & 1 - \frac{2 \mu^2}{(1 + 2j + 2n)^2} - \frac{2(1 + 2j + 8n) \mu^4}{(1 + 2j)(1 + 2j + 2n)^4} - \\ & \frac{4(1 + 8j^3 + 12n + 48n^2 + 16n^3 + 12j^2(1 + 4n) + 6j(1 + 4n)^2) \mu^6}{(1 + 2j)^3(1 + 2j + 2n)^6} - \\ & \frac{(2(5 + 160j^5 + 80n + 512n^2 + 1472n^3 + 1024n^4 + 256n^5 + 80j^4(5 + 16n) + 16j^3(5 + 16n)^2 + \\ & 8j^2(25 + 240n + 768n^2 + 736n^3) + j(50 + 640n + 3072n^2 + 5888n^3 + 2048n^4)) \mu^8}{(1 + 2j)^5(1 + 2j + 2n)^8} + O[\mu]^{10} \end{aligned}$$

In[4]:= **FullSimplify**[% /.  $n \rightarrow n - j - 1/2$ ]

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Out[4]} = & 1 - \frac{\mu^2}{2n^2} + \frac{\left(3 - \frac{8n}{1+2j}\right) \mu^4}{8n^4} - \\ & \frac{(5(1 + 2j)^3 - 24(1 + 2j)^2n + 24(1 + 2j)n^2 + 16n^3) \mu^6}{16((1 + 2j)^3n^6)} - \frac{1}{128((1 + 2j)^5n^8)} \\ & \frac{(-35(1 + 2j)^5 + 240(1 + 2j)^4n - 480(1 + 2j)^3n^2 + 64(1 + 2j)^2n^3 + 384(1 + 2j)n^4 + 256n^5) \mu^8}{(1 + 2j)^5(1 + 2j + 2n)^8} + O[\mu]^{10} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{In[5]}: \text{EnergyDiracExpMore}[\mu_{-}] := & 1 - \frac{\mu^2}{2n^2} + \frac{\left(\frac{3}{4} - \frac{n}{\frac{1}{2} + j}\right) \mu^4}{2n^4} - \\ & \frac{\left(\frac{5}{4} - \frac{3n}{\frac{1}{2} + j} + \frac{3n^2}{2\left(\frac{1}{2} + j\right)^2} + \frac{n^3}{2\left(\frac{1}{2} + j\right)^3}\right) \mu^6}{4n^6} - \frac{\left(-\frac{35}{8} + \frac{15n}{\frac{1}{2} + j} - \frac{15n^2}{\left(\frac{1}{2} + j\right)^2} + \frac{n^3}{\left(\frac{1}{2} + j\right)^3} + \frac{3n^4}{\left(\frac{1}{2} + j\right)^4} + \frac{n^5}{\left(\frac{1}{2} + j\right)^5}\right) \mu^8}{16n^8} \end{aligned}$$

In[6]:= **EnergyDiracExpMore**[ $\mu$ ]

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Out[6]} = & 1 - \frac{\mu^2}{2n^2} + \frac{\left(\frac{3}{4} - \frac{n}{\frac{1}{2} + j}\right) \mu^4}{2n^4} - \frac{\left(\frac{5}{4} - \frac{3n}{\frac{1}{2} + j} + \frac{3n^2}{2\left(\frac{1}{2} + j\right)^2} + \frac{n^3}{2\left(\frac{1}{2} + j\right)^3}\right) \mu^6}{4n^6} - \\ & \frac{\left(-\frac{35}{8} + \frac{15n}{\frac{1}{2} + j} - \frac{15n^2}{\left(\frac{1}{2} + j\right)^2} + \frac{n^3}{\left(\frac{1}{2} + j\right)^3} + \frac{3n^4}{\left(\frac{1}{2} + j\right)^4} + \frac{n^5}{\left(\frac{1}{2} + j\right)^5}\right) \mu^8}{16n^8} \end{aligned}$$

In[7]:= **EnergyDiracExpMoreJ**[ $\mu_{-}$ ] :=

$$\begin{aligned} & 1 - \frac{\mu^2}{2n^2} + \frac{\left(3 - \frac{8n}{1+2j}\right) \mu^4}{8n^4} - \frac{(5(1 + 2j)^3 - 24(1 + 2j)^2n + 24(1 + 2j)n^2 + 16n^3) \mu^6}{16((1 + 2j)^3n^6)} - \\ & \frac{1}{128((1 + 2j)^5n^8)} (-35(1 + 2j)^5 + 240(1 + 2j)^4n - \\ & 480(1 + 2j)^3n^2 + 64(1 + 2j)^2n^3 + 384(1 + 2j)n^4 + 256n^5) \mu^8 \end{aligned}$$

In[8]:= **EnergyDiracExpMoreJ** [ $\mu$ ]

$$\text{Out[8]} = 1 - \frac{\mu^2}{2 n^2} + \frac{\left(3 - \frac{8 n}{1+2 j}\right) \mu^4}{8 n^4} - \frac{\left(5 (1+2 j)^3 - 24 (1+2 j)^2 n + 24 (1+2 j) n^2 + 16 n^3\right) \mu^6}{16 (1+2 j)^3 n^6} - \frac{1}{128 (1+2 j)^5 n^8} \left(-35 (1+2 j)^5 + 240 (1+2 j)^4 n - 480 (1+2 j)^3 n^2 + 64 (1+2 j)^2 n^3 + 384 (1+2 j) n^4 + 256 n^5\right) \mu^8$$

In[9]:= **Simplify**[**EnergyDiracExpMore** [ $\mu$ ] - **EnergyDiracExpMoreJ** [ $\mu$ ]]

Out[9]= 0

As a result, we verified the last two terms in (3.26)-(3.27).