

1-dimensional perturbation theory

System: S.H.O. $H = \frac{-\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{2} m \omega^2 x^2$

Perturbation term: $\lambda H' = bx$

a. Calculate the energy shifts from the ground state.

Using

$$\langle n' | x | n \rangle = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2m\omega}} (\sqrt{n+1} \delta_{n',n+1} + \sqrt{n} \delta_{n',n-1}),$$

we calculate the matrix elements of bx .

$$\langle n' | bx | n \rangle = b \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2m\omega}} (\sqrt{n+1} \delta_{n',n+1} + \sqrt{n} \delta_{n',n-1})$$

For the first order perturbation,

$$\langle 0 | bx | 0 \rangle = 0.$$

For the second order perturbation,

$$\langle 0 | bx | 1 \rangle = b \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2m\omega}},$$

$$\langle 1 | bx | 0 \rangle = b \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2m\omega}}.$$

This system is 1-particle and 1-dimensional, so non-degenerate. Therefore, the energy shift is

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_0^{(2)} &= \frac{|\langle 0 | bx | 1 \rangle^* \langle 1 | bx | 0 \rangle|}{E_0^{(0)} - E_1^{(0)}} \\ &= \frac{\frac{b^2 \hbar}{2m\omega}}{\frac{1}{2} \hbar \omega - \frac{3}{2} \hbar \omega} = \frac{\frac{b^2 \hbar}{2m\omega}}{-\hbar \omega} = -\frac{b^2}{2m\omega^2} \end{aligned}$$

b. Obtain the exact solution.

The total hamiltonian is :

$$H = \frac{p^2}{2m} + \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2 x^2 + bx.$$

Put $\frac{1}{2}m\omega^2$ as a .

$$\begin{aligned} H &= \frac{p^2}{2m} + ax^2 + bx \\ &= \frac{p^2}{2m} + a\left(x^2 + \frac{b}{a}x\right) \\ &= \frac{p^2}{2m} + a\left\{\left(x + \frac{b}{2a}\right)^2 - \frac{b^2}{4a^2}\right\} \\ &= \frac{p^2}{2m} + a\left(x + \frac{b}{2a}\right)^2 - \frac{b^2}{4a} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, we have

$$H = \frac{p^2}{2m} + \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2\left(x + \frac{b}{m\omega^2}\right)^2 - \frac{b^2}{2m\omega^2}.$$

According to the result, the x -coordinate is shifted by $-\frac{b}{m\omega^2}$, and the energy is lowered by $\frac{b^2}{2m\omega^2}$.