

Quantum Computing for Nuclear Structure

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Chapter 1

Introduction



图 1.1: IBM Quantum System One (20qubits)

1.1 What's quantum computing?

1.2 Why quantum computing?

Chapter 2

Quantum Circuit Model

2.1 Quantum bit

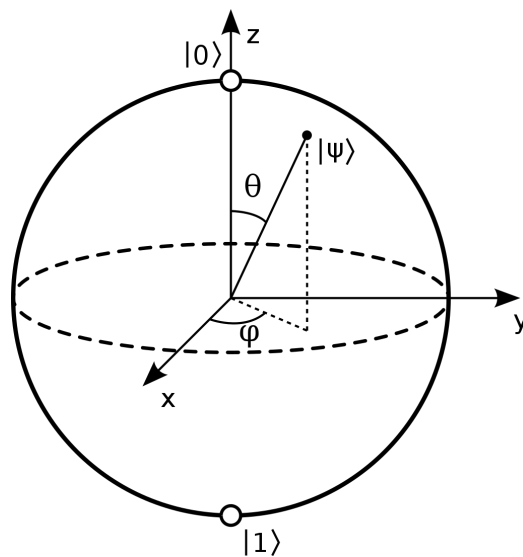


图 2.1: Bloch Sphere

2.2 Quantum gate

2.2.1 Single qubit gate

2.2.2 Multiple qubit gate

2.3 Quantum circuit

2.3.1 Example: Qubit copying circuit?

2.3.2 Example: Bell state (EPR pairs)

2.3.3 Example: Quantum teleportation

2.4 Quantum algorithm

Broadly speaking, there are three classes of quantum algorithms which provide an advantage over known classical algorithms. First, there is **the class of algorithms based upon quantum versions of the Fourier transform**, a tool which is also widely used in classical algorithms. The Deutsch–Jozsa algorithm is an example of this type of algorithm, as are Shor’s algorithms for factoring and discrete logarithm. The second class of algorithms is **quantum search algorithms**. The third class of algorithms is **quantum simulation**, whereby a quantum computer is used to simulate a quantum system.

2.4.1 Quantum Fourier transform

The discrete Fourier transform is defined by

$$y_k = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} e^{2\pi ijk/N} x_j \quad (2.1)$$

What is important is that the Hadamard transform used in the Deutsch–Jozsa algorithm is an example of this generalized class of Fourier transforms. Moreover, many of the other important quantum algorithms also involve some type of Fourier transform.

The most important quantum algorithms known, Shor’s fast algorithms for factoring and discrete logarithm, are two examples of algorithms based upon the Fourier transform defined in Equation (2.1).

Classically, the fast Fourier transform takes roughly $N \log(N) = n2^n$ steps to Fourier transform $N = 2^n$ numbers. On a quantum computer, the Fourier transform can be accomplished using about $\log^2(N) = n^2$ steps, **an exponential saving!**

However, the results of such a calculation are not available to us if we go about it in a straightforward manner. More cleverness is required in order to harness the power of quantum computation.

2.4.2 Quantum search algorithm

A completely different class of algorithms is represented by the quantum search algorithm, whose basic principles were discovered by Grover. The quantum search algorithm solves the following problem: Given a search space of size N , and no prior knowledge about the structure of the information in it, we want to find an element of that search space satisfying a known property. How long does it take to find

an element satisfying that property? Classically, this problem requires approximately N operations, but the quantum search algorithm allows it to be solved using approximately \sqrt{N} operations.

The quantum search algorithm offers only a **quadratic speedup**, as opposed to the more impressive exponential speedup offered by algorithms based on the quantum Fourier transform. However, the quantum search algorithm is still of great interest, since searching heuristics have a wider range of application than the problems solved using the quantum Fourier transform, and adaptations of the quantum search algorithm may have utility for a very wide range of problems.

2.4.3 Quantum simulation

Simulating naturally occurring quantum mechanical systems is an obvious candidate for a task at which quantum computers may excel, yet which is believed to be difficult on a classical computer.

In general, storing the quantum state of a system with n distinct components takes something like c^n bits of memory on a classical computer, where c is a constant which depends upon details of the system being simulated, and the desired accuracy of the simulation.

By contrast, a quantum computer can perform the simulation using kn qubits, where k is again a constant which depends upon the details of the system being simulated. This allows quantum computers to efficiently perform simulations of quantum mechanical systems that are believed not to be efficiently simulatable on a classical computer.

However, a significant caveat is that, when measured, a kn qubit simulation will collapse into a definite state, giving only kn bits of information; the c^n bits of ‘hidden information’ in the wave function is not entirely accessible.

Thus, a crucial step in making quantum simulations useful is development of systematic means by which desired answers can be efficiently extracted; how to do this is only partially understood.

Chapter 3

Applications in Nuclear Physics

Nuclear physics is the study of systems of interacting protons and neutrons, both of which are spin half fermions. The joint experimental and theoretical understanding of these properties is the field of *nuclear structure* (as opposed to nuclear reactions), and is what concerns us here. The starting point of theoretical studies of nuclear structure is *the many-body Schrodinger equation*, using the nuclear interaction as the potential term.

While nuclear physics problems are relatively unexplored on quantum computers, a few investigations have been made. Among these is the determination of **the ground state energy of the deuteron** using a one-body Hamiltonian derived from quantum field theory. This calculation was made using the **variational quantum eigensolver (VQE)** on IBM cloud quantum computers.

3.1 Method of solving the np bound state

Hamiltonian and model space.—Introduce and tailor a deuteron **Hamiltonian** from pionless effective field theory (EFT). At leading order, this EFT describes the deuteron via a short-ranged contact interaction in the S partial wave. We use a discrete variable representation in **the harmonic oscillator basis** for the Hamiltonian.

Mapping the deuteron onto qubits.—Quantum computers manipulate qubits by operations based on Pauli matrices. Write out the Hamiltonian explicitly in matrix form in the oscillator basis and decomposing directly into tensor products of **Pauli spin matrices**.

Preparing the variational wave function.—In quantum computing, a popular approach to determine the ground-state energy of a Hamiltonian is to use UCC ansatz in tandem with the VQE algorithm.

Reducing the cost.—Reduce the number of qubits and circuit depth as much as possible. Because the implementation of quantum many-body simulation algorithms on these devices faces *gate and measurement errors*, and *qubit decoherence*.

Quantum computation.—Use **the VQE quantum-classical hybrid algorithm** to minimize the Hamiltonian expectation value or the variance for our wave function ansatz, to obtain the energy of ground state and excited state.

3.2 Pauli spin matrix decomposition of real symmetric matrices

There are many ways to encode a Hamiltonian in terms of Pauli matrices, and here we present a method to represent an $N \times N$ real symmetric matrix as the combination of Pauli matrices that composes the given matrix through *Kronecker products*.

As a sample application, we apply the method to a Hamiltonian describing the deuteron using effective field theory as previously implemented on a quantum computer under the *Jordan-Wigner mapping*.

First, we started by 2×2 matrix. Including the Identity I , the Pauli matrices can be written as

$$I = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad X = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad Y = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad Z = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (3.1)$$

An arbitrary linear combination of the I , X and Z with real coefficients, is

$$a_0 I + a_1 X + a_3 Z = \begin{pmatrix} a_0 + a_3 & a_1 \\ a_1 & a_0 - a_3 \end{pmatrix} \quad (3.2)$$

One can see that any real 2×2 symmetric matrix can be represented in this form.

Then we consider general case, $N \times N$ matrix. As an example, we work through a case of a 3×3 matrix. We take the following matrix, which represents the energy of the deuteron in an oscillator basis restricted to three oscillator states.

$$a_0 I + a_1 X + a_3 Z = \begin{pmatrix} -0.43658111 & -4.28660705 & 0 \\ -4.28660705 & 12.15 & -7.82623792 \\ 0 & -7.82623792 & 19.25 \end{pmatrix} \quad (3.3)$$

a) If H is not of a power-of-two order, increase the size of H and pad the new elements with zero.

This is extended to the next power of two order, 4×4 by padding with zeros:

$$a_0 I + a_1 X + a_3 Z = \begin{pmatrix} -0.43658111 & -4.28660705 & 0 & 0 \\ -4.28660705 & 12.15 & -7.82623792 & 0 \\ 0 & -7.82623792 & 19.25 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (3.4)$$

b) From the set I, X, Y, Z , Generate the set of Kronecker products of the permutations, and store in a dictionary.

Since the order $4 = 2^2$ we make a list of all pairs of Pauli matrices which do not have an odd numbers of Y matrices. This list is

$$II, IX, IZ, XI, XX, XZ, YY, ZI, ZX, ZZ. \quad (3.5)$$

Each of the elements in the list has a 4×4 matrix representation made, which are:

$$II = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad IX = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad IZ = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \dots \quad (3.6)$$

c) Loop through the elements of the Hamiltonian H .

Encode the equation as one row of M in the matrix-vector equation $Ma = h$ where a is a vector of all the unknowns and h is the Hamiltonian reshaped as a column vector.

The full equation for our example is

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a_{II} \\ a_{IX} \\ a_{IZ} \\ a_{XI} \\ a_{XX} \\ a_{XZ} \\ a_{YY} \\ a_{ZI} \\ a_{ZX} \\ a_{ZZ} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -0.43658111 \\ -4.28660705 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 12.15 \\ -7.82623792 \\ 0 \\ 19.25 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (3.7)$$

d) Solve set of equations for unknowns a_n .

$$H = 7.766II - 2.143IX + 1.641IZ - 3.913XX - 3.913YY - 1.859ZI - 2.143ZX - 7.984ZZ \quad (3.8)$$

3.3 Variational quantum eigensolver (VQE)

VQE is an approach to **finding Hamiltonian eigenvalues**, in which a quantum processor is used as part of a hybrid quantum-classical algorithm.

4 steps to formulate a physical problem:

a) Establish a **correspondence** between the *physical states* and the *multi-qubit states* of a quantum computer,

b) Prepare a **parameterized ansatz state** $|\psi(\vec{\theta})\rangle = U(\vec{\theta})|\psi_0\rangle$ on quantum computer,

c) Evaluate **Hamiltonian expectation value** $E(\vec{\theta}) = \langle\psi(\vec{\theta})|\hat{H}|\psi(\vec{\theta})\rangle$ by sampling on the *quantum computer*,

d) Send the estimated value $E(\vec{\theta})$ to the *classical optimizer* to **determine the set of parameters** for the next iteration of the algorithm.

Chapter 4

Harmonic oscillator basis

All calculations in nuclear physics have two important flaws:

(1) one does not use a complete set of basis functions but rather, by introducing models, restricts the basis sufficiently to make calculations feasible;

(2) the nuclear Hamiltonian is not known with the precision of other fields in physics.

If the results of calculations differ from experiment, it is not apparent which of the two flaws is fault. This problem does not exist in atomic or molecular problems, where the Hamiltonian is known exactly.

We shall therefore apply harmonic oscillator states to the description of nuclear, atomic, and molecular problems, both for its intrinsic interest and for the insight to the approximate procedure.

4.1 One dimensional harmonic oscillator

The Hamiltonian of harmonic oscillator is,

$$H = \frac{p^2}{2m} + \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2 x^2 \quad (4.1)$$

A convenient way is to define two operators, **annihilation operator** a and **creation operator** a^\dagger .

$$a = \sqrt{\frac{m\omega}{2\hbar}}\left(x + \frac{ip}{m\omega}\right), \quad a^\dagger = \sqrt{\frac{m\omega}{2\hbar}}\left(x - \frac{ip}{m\omega}\right) \quad (4.2)$$

It's easy to obtain

$$[a, a^\dagger] = 1 \quad (4.3)$$

We can define **particle number operator**

$$N = a^\dagger a \quad (4.4)$$

It's obviously Hermitian, and we can prove that

$$\begin{aligned}
N &= a^\dagger a = \frac{m\omega}{2\hbar} \left[\left(x^2 + \frac{p^2}{m^2\omega^2} \right) + \frac{i}{m\omega} (xp - px) \right] \\
&= \frac{m\omega}{2\hbar} \left(x^2 + \frac{p^2}{m^2\omega^2} \right) + \frac{i}{2\hbar} i\hbar \\
&= \frac{m\omega}{2\hbar} \left(x^2 + \frac{p^2}{m^2\omega^2} \right) - \frac{1}{2} \\
&= \frac{H}{\hbar\omega} - \frac{1}{2}
\end{aligned} \tag{4.5}$$

So we obtain an important relation between Hamiltonian operator and particle number operator,

$$H = \hbar\omega \left(N + \frac{1}{2} \right) \tag{4.6}$$

$$H = \hbar\omega \left(a^\dagger a + \frac{1}{2} \right) \tag{4.7}$$

$$H = \hbar\omega \left(a a^\dagger - \frac{1}{2} \right) \tag{4.8}$$

Because H is a linear function of N , they can be simultaneously diagonalized. So we use the eigenvalue n of operator N to denote the eigenstate of energy,

$$N |n\rangle = n |n\rangle \tag{4.9}$$

$$H |n\rangle = \left(n + \frac{1}{2} \right) \hbar\omega |n\rangle \tag{4.10}$$

which implies the eigenvalue of energy is

$$E_n = \hbar\omega \left(n + \frac{1}{2} \right) \tag{4.11}$$

Now we begin to prove the **ladder property** of annihilation operator a and creation operator a^\dagger .

$$\begin{aligned}
H a^\dagger |n\rangle &= \hbar\omega \left(a^\dagger a + \frac{1}{2} \right) a^\dagger |n\rangle \\
&= \hbar\omega \left(a^\dagger a a^\dagger + \frac{1}{2} a^\dagger \right) |n\rangle \\
&= \hbar\omega a^\dagger \left(a a^\dagger + \frac{1}{2} \right) |n\rangle \\
&= a^\dagger (H + \hbar\omega) |n\rangle \\
&= (E_n + \hbar\omega) a^\dagger |n\rangle
\end{aligned} \tag{4.12}$$

And by the same token,

$$H a |n\rangle = (E_n - \hbar\omega) a |n\rangle \tag{4.13}$$

Here, then, is a wonderful machine for generating new solutions, with higher and lower energies. If we could just find *one* solution, we can get all solutions.

With the normalization efficient, which can be proved through $\langle n | N |n\rangle = \langle n | a^\dagger a |n\rangle = n$, we have

$$a |n\rangle = \sqrt{n} |n-1\rangle \tag{4.14}$$

and

$$a^\dagger |n\rangle = \sqrt{n+1} |n+1\rangle \quad (4.15)$$

But wait, what if I apply the annihilation operator repeatedly? Eventually, I'm going to reach a state with energy less than zero, which does not exist. So we have to determine **the ground state**, with

$$a |0\rangle = 0 \quad (4.16)$$

which equals to,

$$\sqrt{\frac{m\omega}{2\hbar}} \left(x + \frac{\hbar}{m\omega} \frac{d}{dx} \right) |0\rangle = 0 \quad (4.17)$$

or

$$\frac{d}{dx} |0\rangle = -\frac{m\omega}{\hbar} x |0\rangle \quad (4.18)$$

The differential equation is easy to solve, **the ground state** is

$$|0\rangle = \left(\frac{m\omega}{\pi\hbar} \right)^{1/4} e^{-\frac{m\omega}{2\hbar} x^2} \quad (4.19)$$

Now we can get $|n\rangle$ safely from the ground state

$$|n\rangle = \left[\frac{(a^\dagger)^n}{\sqrt{n!}} \right] |0\rangle \quad (4.20)$$

Represent x and p by a and a^\dagger

$$x = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2m\omega}} (a^\dagger + a), \quad p = \sqrt{\frac{m\hbar\omega}{2}} i(a^\dagger - a) \quad (4.21)$$

and

$$x^2 = \frac{\hbar}{2m\omega} (a^{\dagger 2} + a^2 + a^\dagger a + a a^\dagger), \quad p^2 = -\frac{m\hbar\omega}{2} (a^{\dagger 2} + a^2 - a^\dagger a - a a^\dagger) \quad (4.22)$$

Then we calculate **the expectation value** of operator x , p , x^2 , and p^2

$$\langle x \rangle = \langle n | x | n \rangle = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2m\omega}} \langle n | a^\dagger + a | n \rangle = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2m\omega}} (\sqrt{n+1} \langle n | n+1 \rangle + \sqrt{n} \langle n | n-1 \rangle) = 0 \quad (4.23)$$

$$\langle p \rangle = \langle n | p | n \rangle = i \sqrt{\frac{m\hbar\omega}{2}} \langle n | a^\dagger - a | n \rangle = i \sqrt{\frac{m\hbar\omega}{2}} (\sqrt{n+1} \langle n | n+1 \rangle + \sqrt{n} \langle n | n-1 \rangle) = 0 \quad (4.24)$$

$$\langle x^2 \rangle = \langle n | x^2 | n \rangle = \frac{\hbar}{2m\omega} (\langle n | a a^\dagger | n \rangle + \langle n | a^\dagger a | n \rangle) = \frac{\hbar}{2m\omega} [(n+1) \langle n | n \rangle + n \langle n | n \rangle] = \frac{\hbar}{m\omega} \left(n + \frac{1}{2} \right) \quad (4.25)$$

$$\langle p^2 \rangle = \langle n | p^2 | n \rangle = \frac{m\hbar\omega}{2} (\langle n | a a^\dagger | n \rangle + \langle n | a^\dagger a | n \rangle) = \frac{m\hbar\omega}{2} [(n+1) \langle n | n \rangle + n \langle n | n \rangle] = m\hbar\omega \left(n + \frac{1}{2} \right) \quad (4.26)$$

As it happens, the expectation value of the potential energy is exactly *half* of the total (the other half, of course, is kinetic).

$$\langle V \rangle = \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2 \langle x^2 \rangle = \frac{1}{2}\hbar\omega(n + \frac{1}{2}) = \frac{1}{2}E_n \quad (4.27)$$

$$\langle T \rangle = \frac{\langle p^2 \rangle}{2m} = \frac{1}{2}\hbar\omega(n + \frac{1}{2}) = \frac{1}{2}E_n \quad (4.28)$$

We can also derive the matrix element of T and P respectively,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle n' | V | n \rangle &= \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2 \langle n' | x^2 | n \rangle = \frac{1}{4}\hbar\omega(\langle n' | aa^\dagger | n \rangle + \langle n' | a^\dagger a | n \rangle + \langle n' | a^2 | n \rangle + \langle n' | a^{\dagger 2} | n \rangle) \\ &= \frac{1}{4}\hbar\omega[(n+1)\langle n' | n \rangle + n\langle n' | n \rangle + \sqrt{n(n-1)}\langle n' | n-2 \rangle + \sqrt{(n+1)(n+2)}\langle n' | n+2 \rangle] \quad (4.29) \\ &= \frac{1}{4}\hbar\omega[(2n+1)\delta_n^{n'} + \sqrt{n(n-1)}\delta_{n-2}^{n'} + \sqrt{(n+1)(n+2)}\delta_{n+2}^{n'}] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle n' | T | n \rangle &= \frac{1}{2m} \langle n' | p^2 | n \rangle = \frac{1}{4}\hbar\omega(\langle n' | aa^\dagger | n \rangle + \langle n' | a^\dagger a | n \rangle - \langle n' | a^2 | n \rangle - \langle n' | a^{\dagger 2} | n \rangle) \\ &= \frac{1}{4}\hbar\omega[(n+1)\langle n' | n \rangle + n\langle n' | n \rangle - \sqrt{n(n-1)}\langle n' | n-2 \rangle - \sqrt{(n+1)(n+2)}\langle n' | n+2 \rangle] \quad (4.30) \\ &= \frac{1}{4}\hbar\omega[(2n+1)\delta_n^{n'} - \sqrt{n(n-1)}\delta_{n-2}^{n'} - \sqrt{(n+1)(n+2)}\delta_{n+2}^{n'}] \end{aligned}$$

4.2 Three dimensional harmonic oscillator

We begin with the radial equation

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2 u_{n,l}(r)}{dr^2} + \left[\frac{1}{2} m \omega^2 r^2 + \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{l(l+1)}{r^2} \right] u_{n,l}(r) = E u_{n,l}(r) \quad (4.31)$$

where

$$R_{n,l}(r) = \frac{u_{n,l}(r)}{r} \quad (4.32)$$

and **the normalized solution** to the radial equation is

$$R_{n,l}(r) = (-1)^n \sqrt{\frac{2n!}{\Gamma(n+l+3/2)}} r^l e^{-\frac{1}{2}r^2} L_n^{l+\frac{1}{2}}(r^2) \quad (4.33)$$

For simplicity, we use units in which $\hbar = 1$, $m = 1$, $\omega = 1$

The corresponding energy level is

$$E_{n,l} = \left(2n + l + \frac{3}{2} \right) \quad (4.34)$$

In the case of any other model, we can use the **HO basis** to represent T , then we calculate the matrix element of $T = p^2/2$:

$$\langle n', l | T | n, l \rangle = \langle n', l | H_{HO} - \frac{1}{2} r^2 | n, l \rangle = (2n + l + \frac{3}{2}) \delta_n^{n'} - \frac{1}{2} \int_0^\infty R_{n',l}(r) r^4 R_{n,l}(r) dr \quad (4.35)$$

For the integral we use **the recurrence relation** of associate Laguerre polynomials

$$(n+1)L_{n+1}^\alpha(x) = (2n+1+\alpha-x)L_n^\alpha(x) - (n+\alpha)L_{n-1}^\alpha(x) \quad (4.36)$$

and **the orthogonality** of associate Laguerre polynomials

$$\int_0^\infty x^\alpha e^{-x} L_n^\alpha(x) L_m^\alpha(x) dx = \frac{\Gamma(n+\alpha+1)}{n!} \delta_n^m \quad (4.37)$$

the property of **Gamma function**

$$\Gamma(n+1) = n\Gamma(n) \quad (4.38)$$

if n is an integer

$$\Gamma(n+1) = n! \quad (4.39)$$

The second term is:

$$\begin{aligned}
& \frac{1}{2} \int_0^\infty r^4 (-1)^{n'} \sqrt{\frac{2n!}{\Gamma(n'+l+3/2)}} r^l e^{-\frac{1}{2}r^2} L_{n'}^{l+\frac{1}{2}}(r^2) \times (-1)^n \sqrt{\frac{2n!}{\Gamma(n+l+3/2)}} r^l e^{-\frac{1}{2}r^2} L_n^{l+\frac{1}{2}}(r^2) dr \\
&= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^\infty 2r^{2l+4} e^{-r^2} (-1)^{n'+n} \sqrt{\frac{n!n!}{\Gamma(n'+l+3/2)\Gamma(n+l+3/2)}} L_{n'}^{l+\frac{1}{2}}(r^2) \times L_n^{l+\frac{1}{2}}(r^2) dr \\
&= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^\infty r^{2l+1} e^{-r^2} (-1)^{n'+n} \sqrt{\frac{n!n!}{\Gamma(n'+l+3/2)\Gamma(n+l+3/2)}} L_{n'}^{l+\frac{1}{2}}(r^2) \times r^2 L_n^{l+\frac{1}{2}}(r^2) dr^2 \\
&= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^\infty (-1)^{n'+n} \sqrt{\frac{n!n!}{\Gamma(n'+l+3/2)\Gamma(n+l+3/2)}} \\
&\times r^{2(l+\frac{1}{2})} e^{-r^2} L_{n'}^{l+\frac{1}{2}}(r^2) \times [(2n+l+3/2)L_n^{l+\frac{1}{2}}(r^2) - (n+1)L_{n+1}^{l+\frac{1}{2}}(r^2) - (n+l+\frac{1}{2})L_{n-1}^{l+\frac{1}{2}}(r^2)] dr^2 \\
&= \frac{1}{2} (-1)^{n'+n} \sqrt{\frac{n!n!}{\Gamma(n'+l+3/2)\Gamma(n+l+3/2)}} \\
&\times [(2n+l+3/2) \frac{\Gamma(n'+l+3/2)}{n!} \delta_n^{n'} - (n+1) \frac{\Gamma(n'+l+3/2)}{n!} \delta_{n+1}^{n'} - (n+l+\frac{1}{2}) \frac{\Gamma(n'+l+3/2)}{n!} \delta_{n-1}^{n'}] \\
&= \frac{1}{2} (-1)^{n'+n} \times [(2n+l+3/2) \delta_n^{n'} - (n+1) \sqrt{\frac{n!\Gamma(n'+l+3/2)}{n!\Gamma(n+l+3/2)}} \delta_{n+1}^{n'} - (n+l+\frac{1}{2}) \sqrt{\frac{n!\Gamma(n'+l+3/2)}{n!\Gamma(n+l+3/2)}} \delta_{n-1}^{n'}] \\
&= \frac{1}{2} [(2n+l+3/2) \delta_n^{n'} + \sqrt{(n+1)(n+l+3/2)} \delta_{n+1}^{n'} + \sqrt{n(n+l+1/2)} \delta_{n-1}^{n'}]
\end{aligned} \tag{4.40}$$

Finally, we obtain:

$$\langle n', l | T | n, l \rangle = \frac{1}{2} [(2n+l+\frac{3}{2}) \delta_n^{n'} - \sqrt{(n+1)(n+l+3/2)} \delta_{n+1}^{n'} - \sqrt{n(n+l+1/2)} \delta_{n-1}^{n'}] \tag{4.41}$$

4.3 Variational analysis of the hydrogen atom with HO basis

The Hamiltonian for a system of n electrons and N nuclei is

$$H' = \sum_{s=1}^n \frac{(p'_s)^2}{2m} + \sum_{s<t=2}^n \frac{e^2}{|x'_s - x'_t|} - \sum_{\alpha=1}^N \sum_{s=1}^n \frac{Z_\alpha e^2}{|x'_s - X'_\alpha|} + \sum_{\alpha<\beta=2}^N \frac{Z_\alpha Z_\beta e^2}{|X'_\alpha - X'_\beta|} \quad (4.42)$$

where x'_s is the position vector of the s th electron, X'_α is the position vector of the α th nucleus which is a constant in our problem, and Z_α is the charge of nucleus α .

As a trial wave function we shall use a harmonic oscillator wave function of a certain frequency ω , which will be a variational parameter.

Make the dimensionless processing for variables,

$$\begin{aligned} x_{is} &= \sqrt{\frac{m\omega}{\hbar}} x'_{is} \\ X_{i\alpha} &= \sqrt{\frac{m\omega}{\hbar}} X'_{i\alpha} \\ p_{is} &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{m\omega\hbar}} p'_{is} \\ H &= \left(\frac{me^4}{2\hbar^2}\right)^{-1} H' \end{aligned} \quad (4.43)$$

where $\frac{me^4}{2\hbar^2} \equiv E_B$ is the energy of the first Bohr orbit.

Define a dimensionless parameter,

$$\epsilon \equiv \sqrt{\frac{\hbar\omega}{E_B}} = \sqrt{\hbar\omega / \frac{me^4}{2\hbar^2}} \quad (4.44)$$

Then,

$$H = \frac{1}{2}\epsilon^2 \sum_{s=1}^n (p_s)^2 + \sqrt{2}\epsilon \left[\sum_{s<t=2}^n \frac{1}{|x_s - x_t|} - \sum_{\alpha=1}^N \sum_{s=1}^n \frac{Z_\alpha}{|x_s - X_\alpha|} + \sum_{\alpha<\beta=2}^N \frac{Z_\alpha Z_\beta}{|X_\alpha - X_\beta|} \right] \quad (4.45)$$

In the case of hydrogen atom $N = n = 1$ and we choose $X_\alpha = 0$, we put the nucleus at the origin.

Then,

$$H = \frac{1}{2}\epsilon^2 p^2 - \sqrt{2}\epsilon \frac{1}{r} \quad (4.46)$$

where $r = |x|$.

Our trial function ψ is a linear combination of HO eigenstates $|nlm\rangle$,

$$\psi = \sum_n a_n |nlm\rangle \quad (4.47)$$

For a variational analysis of the energy, we have to minimize $\langle H \rangle$,

$$\delta \left[\int_0^\infty \psi^* H \psi r^2 dr - \lambda \int_0^\infty \psi^* \psi r^2 dr \right] = 0 \quad (4.48)$$

This is equivalent to diagonalizing H matrix for fixed l, m . The lowest eigenvalue, when minimized with respect to ϵ , will be the ground state energy.

Borrow $\langle n'lm|T|nlm\rangle$ from (4.41), calculate the matrix element of H ,

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle n'lm|H|nlm\rangle &= \langle n'lm|\frac{1}{2}\epsilon^2 p^2 - \sqrt{2}\epsilon\frac{1}{r}|nlm\rangle \\
&= \epsilon^2\langle n'lm|T|nlm\rangle - \sqrt{2}\epsilon\langle n'lm|\frac{1}{r}|nlm\rangle \\
&= \frac{1}{2}\epsilon^2[(2n+l+\frac{3}{2})\delta_n^{n'} - \sqrt{(n+1)(n+l+3/2)}\delta_{n+1}^{n'} - \sqrt{n(n+l+1/2)}\delta_{n-1}^{n'}] \\
&\quad - \sqrt{2}\epsilon \sum_{p=l}^{l+n+n'} B(n'l, nl, p) \frac{p!}{\Gamma(p+3/2)}
\end{aligned} \tag{4.49}$$

The ground state of hydrogen atom has $l = m = 0$. For $n = n' = 0$

$$\langle H\rangle = \langle 000|H|000\rangle = \frac{3}{4}\epsilon^2 - \sqrt{2}\epsilon B(00, 00, 0) \frac{1}{\Gamma(3/2)} = \frac{3}{4}\epsilon^2 - \sqrt{2}\epsilon \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \tag{4.50}$$

Minimize $\langle H\rangle$ with respect to ϵ

$$\frac{d}{d\epsilon}[\frac{3}{4}\epsilon^2 - \sqrt{2}\frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}}\epsilon] = \frac{3}{2}\epsilon - \sqrt{2}\frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} = 0 \tag{4.51}$$

$$\epsilon = \frac{4}{3}\sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} = 1.06 \tag{4.52}$$

From equation (4.44) $\epsilon = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar\omega}{E_B}}$, we know that

$$\hbar\omega = 1.06^2 E_B \tag{4.53}$$

And the energy is

$$\langle H\rangle = \langle 000|H|000\rangle = -\frac{4}{3} \times \frac{2}{\pi} = -0.849 \tag{4.54}$$

in the unit of the energy of the first Bohr orbit E_B .

If we increase n , we will get the ground state energy as shown

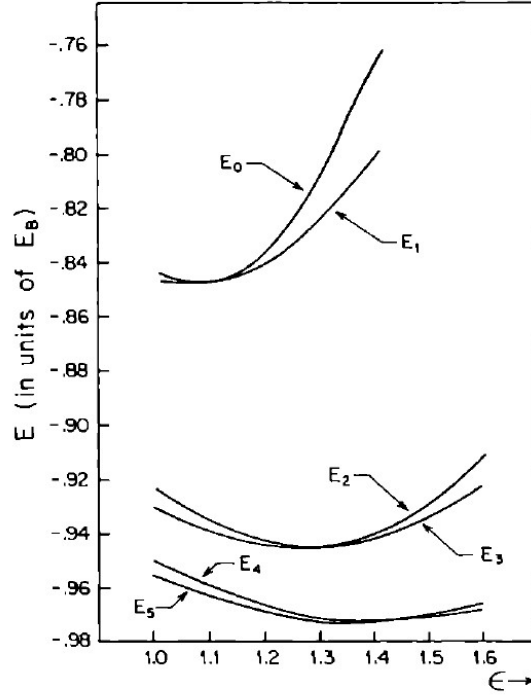


Figure I.1. Energy of the ground state of the H atom as a function of the parameter ϵ for the variational analysis discussed in Section 3. This energy $E_p(\epsilon)$, $p = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ is associated with a trial wave function $\psi_p = \sum_{n=0}^p a_n^{(p)} |n00\rangle$, where $|n00\rangle$ is a harmonic-oscillator state of frequency $\hbar\omega = (me^4/2\hbar^2)\epsilon^2$.

As one increases the quantum number n , uses more HO states in the trial function, the accuracy of ground state energy is improved, and the frequency of the HO for which we get the minimum is increasing.

Note also the dramatic improvement in the ground state energy occurs when one increases the number n by two, rather than by one. This is a general property observed in many calculations which we shall prove here for an arbitrary potential $V(r')$ when we consider the case of $n = 0, 1$.

The Hamiltonian is

$$H = \frac{1}{2m}p'^2 + V(r') = \frac{1}{2}\hbar\omega p^2 + V\left(\sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{m\omega}}r\right) \quad (4.55)$$

And its matrix is

$$\begin{pmatrix} \langle 000|H|000\rangle & \langle 000|H|100\rangle \\ \langle 100|H|000\rangle & \langle 100|H|100\rangle \end{pmatrix} \quad (4.56)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \langle 000|H|000\rangle &= \frac{3}{4}\hbar\omega + \int_0^\infty r^2 V\left(\sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{m\omega}}r\right) \frac{2}{\Gamma(3/2)} e^{-r^2} [L_0^{1/2}(r^2)]^2 dr \\ &= \frac{3}{4}\hbar\omega + \frac{4}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^\infty \left(\frac{m\hbar\omega}{\hbar^2}\right)^{3/2} r'^2 V(r') e^{-\frac{m\hbar\omega}{\hbar^2}r'^2} dr' \end{aligned} \quad (4.57)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle 100|H|000\rangle &= \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\frac{3}{2}}\hbar\omega + \int_0^\infty r^2 V\left(\sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{m\omega}}r\right) \frac{2}{\sqrt{\Gamma(3/2)\Gamma(5/2)}} e^{-r^2} L_0^{1/2}(r^2) L_1^{1/2}(r^2) dr \\
&= \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\frac{3}{2}}\hbar\omega + \sqrt{\frac{3}{2}} \frac{4}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^\infty \left(\frac{m\hbar\omega}{\hbar^2}\right)^{3/2} r'^2 V(r') e^{-\frac{m\hbar\omega}{\hbar^2}r'^2} dr' \\
&\quad - \sqrt{\frac{3}{2}} \frac{8}{3\sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^\infty \left(\frac{m\hbar\omega}{\hbar^2}\right)^{5/2} r'^4 V(r') e^{-\frac{m\hbar\omega}{\hbar^2}r'^2} dr'
\end{aligned} \tag{4.58}$$

Now take the derivative of $\langle 000|H|000\rangle$ with respect to $\hbar\omega$, and we can see that

$$\frac{d}{d(\hbar\omega)} \langle 000|H|000\rangle = \sqrt{\frac{3}{2}} \frac{1}{\hbar\omega} \langle 100|H|000\rangle \tag{4.59}$$

Therefore for the frequency $\hbar\omega$ for which $\langle 000|H|000\rangle$ is a minimum, we also have $\langle 100|H|000\rangle = 0$. So that there is no improvement for the energy when we add $n = 1$ at this frequency.

4.4 Scattering of a particle in a central potential

We consider the problem that a particle scattered by a central short range (going to 0 faster than r^{-1} if $r \rightarrow +\infty$), using units in which

$$\hbar = m = \omega = 1 \tag{4.60}$$

Our Schoedinger equation can be written as

$$\left[\frac{1}{2}p^2 + V(\mathbf{r})\right]\psi_{lm}(\mathbf{r}) = E\psi_{lm}(\mathbf{r}) \tag{4.61}$$

the solution has the form

$$\psi_{lm}(\mathbf{r}) = R_l(r)Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi) \tag{4.62}$$

where $R_l(r)$ will be sought in a form of an expansion in terms of HO functions,

$$R_l(r) = \sum_{n'} C_{n'l} R_{n'l}(r) \tag{4.63}$$

where $R_{n'l}(r)$ is given by (4.33), it is clear that

$$C_{n'l} = \langle R_{n'l}(r)|R_l(r)\rangle = \int_0^\infty r^2 R_{n'l}(r) R_l(r) dr \tag{4.64}$$

Substituting expansion (4.63) in (4.61), multiplying the latter by $R_{nl}(r)Y_{lm}^*$, and integrating over the space

$$\sum_{n'} (H_{nn'} - \delta_{nn'} E) C_{n'l} = 0, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots, \tag{4.65}$$

which become

$$-T_{n,n-1}^l C_{n-1,l} + (T_{n,n}^l - E) C_{n,l} - T_{n,n+1}^l C_{n+1,l} + 2 \sum_{n'} \langle nl|V|n'l\rangle C_{n',l} = 0 \tag{4.66}$$

where we use the relation (4.41) and the fact that for the kinetic energy $T = p^2/2$ the only non vanishing matrix elements are

$$T_{n,n-1}^l = \frac{1}{2} [n(n+l + \frac{1}{2})]^{1/2} \quad (4.67)$$

$$T_{n,n}^l = \frac{1}{2} [2n+l + \frac{3}{2}] \quad (4.68)$$

$$T_{n,n+1}^l = \frac{1}{2} [(n+1)(n+l + \frac{3}{2})]^{1/2} \quad (4.69)$$

For short range potential the matrix element $\langle nl|V|n'l \rangle$ diminishes quickly as $n, n' \rightarrow \infty$ as the wave function $Rnl(r)$ oscillates vary rapidly. Thus the effect of the potential matrix element can be cut at some appropriate maximum value N of n, n' and (4.66) can be broken into three sets:

$$\sum_{n'=0}^N (H_{nn'} - E\delta_{nn'}) C_{n'l} = \delta_{nN} T_{N,N+1}^l C_{N+1,l}, \quad n \leq N \quad (4.70)$$

$$-T_{N+1,N}^l C_{N,l} + (T_{N+1,N+1}^l - E) C_{N+1,l} - T_{N+1,N+2}^l C_{N+2,l} = 0 \quad (4.71)$$

$$-T_{n,n-1}^l C_{n-1,l} + (T_{n,n}^l - E) C_{n,l} - T_{n,n+1}^l C_{n+1,l} = 0, \quad n \geq N+1 \quad (4.72)$$

The first step in the solution of (4.70) consists in finding two linear independent functions that satisfy (4.72), and the coefficients C_{nl} with $n > N$ obey the recurrence relation for free motion (4.72). Next, connect the external with the internal part with the intermediate equation (4.71).

The procedure correspond to the exact solution of a problem of Hamiltonian $H = T + V^N$, where V^N is a seperable potential of the form

$$V^N = \sum_{n,n'}^N \langle nl|V|n'l \rangle |nl \rangle \langle n'l| \quad (4.73)$$