

Übungen zur Quantenmechanik (T2)

Übungsblatt 13, Besprechung vom 24.01 – 28.01

1 Aufgabe 1 – Parität der Energie-Eigenzustände

In der folgenden Aufgabe werden Sie zeigen, dass Energie-Eigenzustände für symmetrische Potentiale, d.h. $V(x) = V(-x)$, in einer Dimension stets gerade oder ungerade bezüglich $x \rightarrow -x$ sind. Gehen Sie dafür wie folgt vor:

- (i) Der Paritätsoperator P wird definiert als $(P\psi)(x) = \alpha_\psi \psi(-x)$, mit $|\alpha_\psi| = 1$. Zeigen Sie, dass P eine Symmetrie ist, d.h. dass P Betragsquadrate der Amplituden invariant lässt.
- (ii) Eine Symmetrie kann durch einen unitären Operator dargestellt werden. Welche Bedingung folgt damit für α_ψ ?
- (iii) Wir fordern nun, dass P auch eine Observable sein soll. Zeigen Sie, dass sie damit $\alpha_\psi = \pm 1$ für alle ψ fordern können. Damit ist

$$(P\psi)(x) = \psi(-x).$$

- (iv) Finden Sie die Eigenwerte von P und interpretieren Sie die Eigenfunktionen.
- (v) Zeigen Sie, dass für symmetrische Potentiale $[P, H] = 0$ gilt, d.h. P ist eine Symmetrie der Hamiltonfunktion.
- (vi) Wir können somit eine simultane Eigenbasis finden. Überzeugen Sie sich, dass dies bedeutet, dass die Energie-Eigenzustände entweder symmetrisch oder antisymmetrisch sind, d.h. $(P\psi_E)(x) = \pm\psi_E(x)$.

Solution

- (i) Since $|\alpha| = 1$, we see that amplitudes satisfy $\langle P\phi | P\psi \rangle = \alpha_\phi^* \alpha_\psi \langle \phi | \psi \rangle = (\text{phase}) \langle \phi | \psi \rangle$, hence it is a symmetry.
- (ii) With α depending on ψ , P is only projective. If we have $\alpha_\psi = \alpha$, the same number for all ψ , it becomes unitary.
- (iii) We require $P^\dagger = P$, hence $\alpha = \pm 1$. We can choose $\alpha = 1$ (the other sign does not affect the following in any form).
- (iv) Since P is unitary and Hermitian, it can only have eigenvalues ± 1 . We see that eigenfunctions are precisely the symmetric and antisymmetric functions, as

$$(P\psi)(x) = \psi(-x) = \pm\psi(x)$$

for these functions.

- (v) The Laplacian is clearly invariant under $x \rightarrow -x$, and if $V(-x) = V(x)$, we have $H(-x) = H(x)$, in other words $[H, P] = 0$.
- (vi) Since the eigenfunctions of P are the symmetric or antisymmetric functions, we see that there exists a simultaneous basis of energy eigenstates with definitive behaviour under $x \rightarrow -x$, i.e. each eigenfunction is either symmetric or antisymmetric.

Aufgabe 2 – Endlich tiefer Potentialtopf

Betrachten Sie das eindimensionale Problem eines Potentialtopfs mit endlicher Tiefe: $V(x) = 0$ für $x > a/2$ und $x < -a/2$, $V(x) = -V_0$ für $-a/2 < x < a/2$.

- (i) Lösen Sie die Schrödingergleichung ein Teilchen mit Energie $-V_0 < E < 0$ in allen drei Raumbereichen. Berücksichtigen Sie, dass die Lösung normierbar sein muss.
- (ii) Welche Anschlussbedingungen muss die Lösung an den Stellen $x = -a/2$ und $x = a/2$ erfüllen?
- (iii) Nutzen Sie die Anschlussbedingungen, um eine Bestimmungsgleichung für die Energieniveaus abzuleiten.
- (iv) Lösen Sie die Bestimmungsgleichung für $V_0 \rightarrow \infty$. Diskutieren Sie die Lösung und wie diese für endliche V_0 aussehen würde.

Solution

- (i) We solve the time-independent Schrödinger equation in each region separately and use matching conditions for $\psi(x)$ and $\psi'(x)$ to find the full solution. We are interested only in solutions with $E < 0$, which are normalisable. We will work with $E > 0$ and $V > 0$ to not have to worry about signs, and the region we are interested in is $V_0 - E > 0$.

- In the first region, $-\infty < x < -\frac{a}{2}$, we solve with $V(x) = 0$, i.e. the time-independent Schrödinger equation is

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\Delta\psi(x) = -E\psi(x).$$

We make an exponential ansatz $\psi(x) = e^{\lambda x}$ and find the algebraic equation

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\lambda^2 = -E \Rightarrow \lambda_{\pm} = \pm\sqrt{\frac{2mE}{\hbar^2}},$$

so the solution is proportional to

$$\psi_{\text{I}}(x) = Ae^{\sqrt{\frac{2mE}{\hbar^2}}x} + Be^{-\sqrt{\frac{2mE}{\hbar^2}}x}$$

The normalisable solution is proportional to $\psi \sim e^{\sqrt{\frac{2mE}{\hbar^2}}x}$, so we have $B = 0$. The solution in region I is thus given by

$$\psi_{\text{I}}(x) = Ae^{\kappa x},$$

where $\kappa = \sqrt{\frac{2mE}{\hbar^2}}$.

- In the third region, $\frac{a}{2} < x < \infty$, we find the same equation, but this time the normalisable solution is proportional to $e^{-\sqrt{\frac{2mE}{\hbar^2}}x}$, so we have

$$\psi_{\text{III}}(x) = Ce^{-\kappa x}.$$

- In the second region, $-\frac{a}{2} < x < \frac{a}{2}$, we have to solve

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\Delta\psi(x) - V_0 = -E\psi(x)$$

Again, we use an exponential ansatz (this time with imaginary exponent) and find the general solution

$$\psi_{\text{II}}(x) = Fe^{i\sqrt{\frac{2m(V_0-E)}{\hbar^2}}x} + Ge^{-i\sqrt{\frac{2m(E+V_0)}{\hbar^2}}x}.$$

We define $k = \sqrt{\frac{2m(V_0-E)}{\hbar^2}}$ and use parity of the solution to distinguish into symmetric and antisymmetric solutions. We find

$$\begin{aligned}\psi_{\text{II,s}}(x) &= F \cos(kx) \\ \psi_{\text{II,a}}(x) &= G \sin(kx).\end{aligned}$$

To conclude, the solutions are given by

$$\psi(x) = \begin{cases} Ae^{\kappa x} & \text{for } -\infty < x < -\frac{a}{2}, \\ F \cos(kx) + G \sin(kx) & \text{for } -\frac{a}{2} < x < \frac{a}{2}, \\ Ce^{-\kappa x} & \text{for } \frac{a}{2} < x < \infty, \end{cases}$$

where $\kappa = \sqrt{\frac{2mE}{\hbar^2}}$ and $k = \sqrt{\frac{2m(V_0 - E)}{\hbar^2}}$.

- (ii) We require continuity of the wave function and its derivative at $x = \pm \frac{a}{2}$. This gives rise to four equations. An additional condition is found by demanding the normalisation of the wave function to be 1, but we will not do this here. First, we discuss the symmetric solutions. We find

$$\begin{aligned} Ae^{-\kappa \frac{a}{2}} &= F \cos(-k \frac{a}{2}) \\ \kappa Ae^{-\kappa \frac{a}{2}} &= -kF \sin(-k \frac{a}{2}) \\ Ce^{-\kappa \frac{a}{2}} &= F \cos(k \frac{a}{2}) \\ \kappa Ce^{-\kappa \frac{a}{2}} &= -kF \sin(-k \frac{a}{2}) \end{aligned}$$

We immediately see that $A = C$, as we expect from symmetry. Dividing two of the equations (one containing sin, one cos), we find

$$\kappa = k \tan(k \frac{a}{2}).$$

For the antisymmetric solutions, we have the conditions

$$\begin{aligned} Ae^{-\kappa \frac{a}{2}} &= F \sin(-k \frac{a}{2}) \\ \kappa Ae^{-\kappa \frac{a}{2}} &= kF \cos(-k \frac{a}{2}) \\ Ce^{-\kappa \frac{a}{2}} &= F \sin(k \frac{a}{2}) \\ \kappa Ce^{-\kappa \frac{a}{2}} &= kF \cos(-k \frac{a}{2}) \end{aligned}$$

We immediately see $A = -C$. The energy condition is now given by

$$\kappa = k \cot(k \frac{a}{2}).$$

- (iii) Starting from

$$\kappa = k \tan(k \frac{a}{2}),$$

we first multiply by $\frac{a}{2}$ to find

$$\kappa \frac{a}{2} = k \frac{a}{2} \tan(k \frac{a}{2}).$$

Next, note that

$$\kappa^2 + k^2 = \frac{2mE}{\hbar^2} + \frac{2m(V_0 - E)}{\hbar^2} = \frac{2mV_0}{\hbar^2}$$

is independent of E . We define the dimensionless variable $z = k \frac{a}{2} = \sqrt{\frac{2mE}{\hbar^2}} \frac{a}{2}$ and $z_0 = \sqrt{\frac{2mV_0}{\hbar^2}} \frac{a}{2}$ and find

$$\kappa \frac{a}{2} = \sqrt{z_0^2 - z^2}.$$

Using this in the relation of κ and k , we obtain

$$\tan z = \sqrt{\left(\frac{z_0}{z}\right)^2 - 1}.$$

This equation cannot be solved analytically, it must be solved either numerically or graphically by inspection.

For the antisymmetric solutions, we use the same procedure and find

$$\cot z = \sqrt{\left(\frac{z_0}{z}\right)^2 - 1}.$$

See the attached plots for graphical solutions. We already see that there is always one symmetric solution, the ground state, but there may not be an antisymmetric solution.

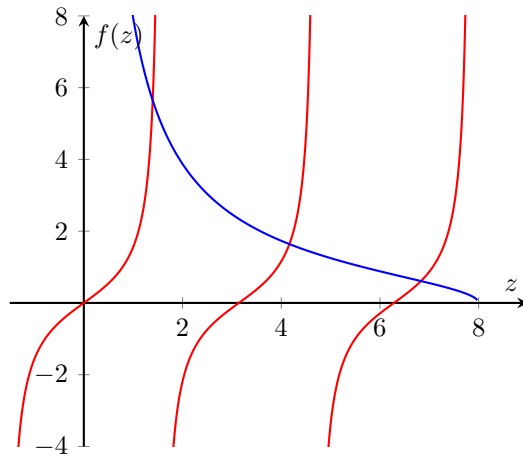


Abbildung 1: Energy condition for the symmetric solution. The allowed energies are the intersections of both graphs.

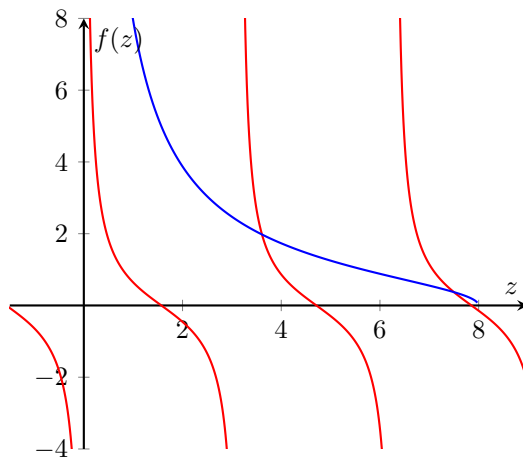


Abbildung 2: Energy condition for the antisymmetric solution. The allowed energies are the intersections of both graphs.

- (iv) As $V_0 \rightarrow -\infty$, we can graphically see that the intersections move to $z_n = \frac{n\pi}{2}$, with n odd for the symmetric and n even for the antisymmetric solution. We conclude that

$$k\frac{a}{2} = \frac{n\pi}{2} \Rightarrow V_0 - E = \frac{n^2\pi^2\hbar^2}{2ma^2}.$$

Setting the energy at the bottom of the well to be 0, we find the quantised energy states

$$E_n = \frac{n^2\pi^2\hbar^2}{2ma^2}.$$

For finite V_0 , there will only be finitely many eigenstates, but there will always be the ground state.

Aufgabe 3 – Harmonischer Oszillator & Hermitesche Polynome

Betrachten Sie die Schrödingergleichung für Eigenzustände des harmonischen Oszillators

$$\left(-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\partial_x^2 + \frac{m\omega^2}{2}x^2\right)\phi_n(x) = \hbar\omega\left(n + \frac{1}{2}\right)\phi_n(x) \equiv \hbar\omega_n\phi_n(x). \quad (1)$$

- (i) Zeigen Sie, dass die Substitution $u = \frac{x}{l}$ mit $l = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{m\omega}}$ die Gleichung (1) in die folgende überführt

$$\frac{\hbar\omega}{2}\left(-\partial_u^2 + u^2\right)\Psi_n(u) = \hbar\omega_n\Psi_n(u). \quad (2)$$

- (ii) Betrachten Sie nun den Ansatz $\Psi_n(u) = e^{-u^2/2}H_n(u)$. Zeigen Sie, dass aus Gleichung (2) für $H_n(u)$ folgt

$$\partial_u^2 H_n(u) - 2uH_n'(u) + 2nH_n(u) = 0 \quad (3)$$

Im Folgenden wollen wir zeigen dass Gleichung (3), die *Hermitesche Differentialgleichung*, durch die sogenannten *Hermiteschen Polynome* gelöst wird. Diese sind gegeben durch

$$H_n(u) \equiv (-1)^n e^{u^2} \frac{d^n}{du^n} e^{-u^2} \quad (4)$$

- (iii) Beweisen Sie zunächst folgende Rekursionsrelation für die Hermiteschen Polynome durch Ableiten von Gleichung (4):

$$H_{n+1}(u) = 2uH_n(u) - \partial_u H_n(u) \quad (5)$$

- (iv) Nutzen Sie nun Gleichung (5) um zu zeigen, dass

$$e^{2x\lambda - \lambda^2} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} H_n(x) \frac{\lambda^n}{n!} \quad (6)$$

- (v) Nutzen Sie nun Gleichung (6), um zu zeigen dass die Hermiteschen Polynome in der Tat Gleichung (3) lösen. Wenden Sie hierfür den Operator

$$\partial_u^2 - 2u\partial_u + 2\lambda\partial_\lambda$$

auf beide Seiten von (6) an.

Nun wollen wir diese Ergebnisse im Kontext der Formulierung des Oszillators über Auf-/Absteigeoperatoren betrachten.

- (vi) Lösen Sie zunächst die Gleichung für den Grundzustand, $\partial_u \Psi_0(u) = -u\Psi_0(u)$. Wählen Sie die Vorfaktoren so, dass $\phi_0(x)$ normiert ist.

- (vii) Zeigen Sie, dass, für einen angeregten Zustand $|n\rangle$, $|n\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n!}}(\hat{a}^\dagger)^n |0\rangle$ gilt. Wie sieht diese Identität im Ortsraum aus?

- (viii) Berechnen und skizzieren Sie $\phi_n(x)$ für $n \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ unter Verwendung von Teilaufgabe (vi) und vergewissern Sie sich, dass ihre Ergebnisse mit der Darstellung über hermitesche Polynome übereinstimmen. Hierfür dürfen sie die Normierungsfaktoren aus der Vorlesung ohne Beweis verwenden, d.h.

$$\phi_n(x) = (n!2^n \sqrt{\pi}l)^{-1/2} e^{-\frac{x^2}{2l^2}} H_n\left(\frac{x}{l}\right).$$

Solution

- (i) Starting from the Schrödinger equation, we factorise $\frac{\hbar\omega}{2}$ and find

$$\begin{aligned} \left(-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\Delta + \frac{m\omega^2}{2}x^2\right)\phi_n(x) &= \hbar\omega_n\phi_n(x) \\ \frac{\hbar\omega}{2}\left(-\frac{\hbar}{m\omega}\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{m\omega}{\hbar}x^2\right)\phi_n(x) &= \hbar\omega\phi_n(x), \end{aligned}$$

we identify the first term as $l^2\partial_x^2 = \frac{\partial}{\partial(\frac{x}{l})^2} = \partial_u^2$ and the second term as $(xl)^2 = u^2$.

- (ii) We use the ansatz $\phi_n(u) = e^{-\frac{u^2}{2}}H_n(u)$ and obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\hbar\omega}{2}e^{-\frac{u^2}{2}}(-H_n'' + H_n - u^2H_n + 2uH_n' + u^2H_n) &= \frac{\hbar\omega}{2}(2n+1)H_n e^{-\frac{u^2}{2}} \\ H_n'' - 2uH_n' + 2nH_n &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

- (iii) We compute the derivative of H_n and find

$$\begin{aligned} H_n' &= \frac{d}{du}\left((-1)^n e^{u^2} \frac{d^n}{du^n} e^{-u^2}\right) \\ &= 2uH_n - H_{n+1}, \end{aligned}$$

and we conclude

$$H_{n+1} = 2uH_n - H_n'.$$

- (iv) Consider the function $f(\lambda) = e^{-(x-\lambda)^2} = e^{-x^2}e^{2x\lambda-\lambda^2}$. It has a series expansion

$$f(\lambda) = \sum_n \frac{1}{n!} f^{(n)}(0)\lambda^n.$$

Computing the coefficient $f^{(n)}(0)$, we find

$$\begin{aligned} f^{(n)}(0) &= \left.\frac{d^n}{d\lambda^n}\right|_{\lambda=0} e^{-(x-\lambda)^2} \\ &= (-1)^n \left.\frac{d^n}{d\lambda^n}\right|_{\lambda=x} e^{-(\lambda)^2} \\ &= (-1)^n \frac{d^n}{dx^n} e^{-x^2} \\ &= e^{-x^2} H_n. \end{aligned}$$

We see that

$$e^{2x\lambda-\lambda^2} = \sum_n \frac{1}{n!} H_n \lambda^n.$$

- (v) We apply $\partial_u^2 - 2u\partial_u + 2\lambda\partial_\lambda$ to the generating function and find on the LHS

$$(\partial_u^2 - 2u\partial_u + 2\lambda\partial_\lambda)e^{2u\lambda-\lambda^2} = 0$$

and on the RHS

$$(\partial_u^2 - 2u\partial_u + 2\lambda\partial_\lambda) \sum_n \frac{1}{n!} \lambda^n (H_n'' - 2uH_n' + 2nH_n) = 0.$$

This polynomial must vanish at each order in λ , so H_n satisfies the Hermite equation.

- (vi) The ground state is given by the $n=0$ solution, namely $\phi_0 \sim H_0 e^{-\frac{u^2}{2}}$, and $H_0 = 1$. Normalising this is straightforward (simple integration of a Gaussian), and we find

$$\phi_0(x) = \left(\frac{m\omega}{\hbar\pi}\right)^{\frac{1}{4}} e^{-\frac{x^2}{2l^2}}.$$

Alternatively, we see that this function solves $\partial_u\Psi = -u\Psi$, which is the position representation of $a|0\rangle = 0$. This is closer to the lecture, so please explain this to them.

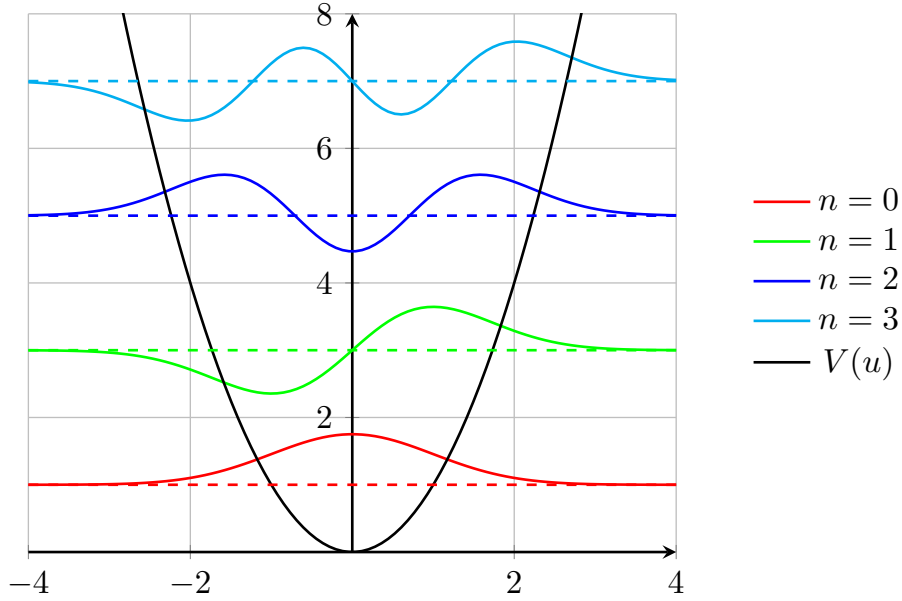


Abbildung 3: The first four energy eigenstates.

- (vii) We use the same procedure as for the angular momentum algebra (cf. Ex. 11.3 (i)), using $[a, a^\dagger] = 1$. We first compute

$$N_0^2 |0\rangle = aa^\dagger |0\rangle = [a, a^\dagger] |0\rangle = |0\rangle,$$

as well as

$$N_n^2 |n\rangle = aa^\dagger |n\rangle = [a, a^\dagger] |n\rangle + a^\dagger a |n\rangle = (1 + N_{n-1}^2) |n\rangle.$$

We find $N_n = \sqrt{n}$. Using this, we conclude

$$|n\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} a^\dagger |n-1\rangle = \dots = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n!}} (a^\dagger)^n |0\rangle.$$

In position representation, we have $a^\dagger = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(-\frac{d}{du} + u)$, so this equation gives

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2(n!)}} \left(-\frac{d}{du} + u\right)^n \psi_0(u) = \psi_n(u).$$

Applying the creation operator to the ground state wave function and using the definition of the eigenfunctions, we see that, indeed, we obtain the next excited state (and so on, after applying the creation operator again).

- (viii) We find

$$\begin{aligned} H_1 &= 2u \\ H_2 &= 4u^2 - 2 \\ H_3 &= 8u^3 - 12u \end{aligned}$$

from which we obtain ϕ_n via the given formula.