

FQM problem Sheet 2 in WS 2022/2023

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Discussion: 28.10.2022, 10:00 – 12:00

1. Temple's Operator (9)

Consider the operator

$$\Lambda := -(2\mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{S} + 1) - i\frac{K}{r}\boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot \mathbf{r},$$

where $r = |\mathbf{r}|$, $\alpha^k = \gamma^0\gamma^k$ ($k = 1, 2, 3$), $\mathbf{S} = \frac{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}{2}$ and “ \cdot ” denotes the standard scalar product.

Show that

$$\Lambda(\Lambda + 1) = L^2 - K^2 - \frac{iK}{r}\boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot \mathbf{r}.$$

2. The Foldy-Wouthuysen Transformation (12)

The Hamilton is given by

$$\mathbf{H} := \boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot (\mathbf{p} - e\mathbf{A}) + \gamma^0 m + e\Phi.$$

We are looking for a transformation that decouples the Dirac equation $i\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\psi = \mathbf{H}\psi$ into two two-component equations. Since decoupling is generally not possible, we consider in the following a canonical transformation, which realizes this in the form of a non-relativistic expansion.

- (a) Carry out the transformation¹ $\Psi' := e^{i\mathbf{S}}\psi$ and derive an equation of the form $i\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\psi' = \mathbf{H}'\psi'$.
 (b) Expand \mathbf{H}' to first order in $\frac{1}{m}$ under the assumption $\mathbf{S} = \mathcal{O}(\frac{1}{m})$, i.e. $\mathbf{H}' = \mathbf{H}'_1 + \mathcal{O}(\frac{1}{m^2})$. Use the following identities for this

$$e^{i\mathbf{S}}\mathbf{H}e^{-i\mathbf{S}} = e^{ad_{i\mathbf{S}}}\mathbf{H} \doteq \mathbf{H} + i[\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{H}] + \frac{i^2}{2!}[\mathbf{S}[\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{H}]] + \dots \quad ,$$

$$e^{i\mathbf{S}}\left(-i\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\right)e^{-i\mathbf{S}} = \frac{1 - e^{ad_{i\mathbf{S}}}}{ad_{i\mathbf{S}}}\dot{\mathbf{S}} \doteq -\dot{\mathbf{S}} - \frac{i}{2!}[\mathbf{S}, \dot{\mathbf{S}}] - \frac{i^2}{3!}[\mathbf{S}[\mathbf{S}, \dot{\mathbf{S}}]] + \dots \quad .$$

- (c) Think about why \mathbf{H}' by choosing $i\mathbf{S} := \frac{\gamma^0}{2m}\boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot (\mathbf{p} - e\mathbf{A})$ becomes block diagonal in zeroth order. With this choice, calculate \mathbf{H}'_1 . Do certain terms of the first block of the block diagonal part of \mathbf{H}'_1 look familiar to you?

Note: Calculate first the commutator $i[\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{H}]$. For all other commutators you only need the terms of order $\frac{1}{m}$!

¹Note that \mathbf{S} can depend on the time.