

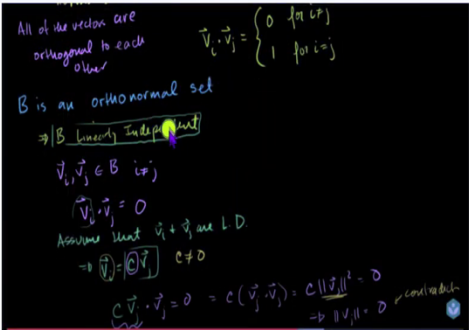
Quantum Chemistry of Atoms and Molecules
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Lecture-48
Variational calculation for particle in a box.....continued

As we know quantum mechanics is all about orthonormal functions. The way we use functions that we use are almost always when we talk about exact solutions they are either form an orthogonal basis or they are made by linear combinations of functions that form a complete orthonormal set. So, it makes sense at this stage of a discussion to see what happens when we express trial functions as a linear combination of orthonormal functions.

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[Trial Function as a linear combination of orthonormal functions](#)



The image shows handwritten notes on a blackboard. The text reads: "All of the vectors are orthogonal to each other" with a note "or linear". Below this, it says "B is an orthonormal set" and "⇒ B linearly independent". It then shows the dot product $\vec{v}_i \cdot \vec{v}_j = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } i \neq j \\ 1 & \text{for } i = j \end{cases}$. Further down, it states $\vec{v}_i \cdot \vec{v}_j = 0$ and "Assume that $\vec{v}_i + \vec{v}_j$ are L.D." leading to $\Rightarrow \vec{v}_i = c \vec{v}_j$ where $c \neq 0$. The final part shows $c \vec{v}_i \cdot \vec{v}_j = 0 = c (\vec{v}_i \cdot \vec{v}_j) = c \|\vec{v}_i\|^2 = 0$ which leads to $\Rightarrow \|\vec{v}_i\| = 0$ and a note "contradiction".

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7BFx8pt2aTQ>

Quantum Chemistry, D. A. McQuarrie

And we know about the properties of orthonormal functions that are studied in the past.

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Variational calculation for particle in a box

$$\phi = c_1 f_1 + c_2 f_2; \quad f_1 = x(1-x), \quad f_2 = x^2(1-x)^2 \quad \hat{H} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2}{dx^2}$$

$$\begin{vmatrix} H_{11} - ES_{11} & H_{12} - ES_{12} \\ H_{12} - ES_{12} & H_{22} - ES_{22} \end{vmatrix} = 0 \quad H_{11} = \frac{\hbar^2}{6m} \quad H_{12} = H_{21} = \frac{\hbar^2}{30m} \quad H_{22} = \frac{\hbar^2}{105m}$$

$$\text{Let } E' = \frac{Em}{\hbar^2} \quad S_{11} = \frac{1}{30} \quad S_{12} = S_{21} = \frac{1}{140} \quad S_{22} = \frac{1}{630}$$

$$\begin{vmatrix} \frac{1}{6} - \frac{E'}{30} & \frac{1}{30} - \frac{E'}{140} \\ \frac{1}{30} - \frac{E'}{140} & \frac{1}{105} - \frac{E'}{630} \end{vmatrix} = 0 \quad 3E'^2 - 168E' + 756 = 0 \quad E' = \frac{168 \pm \sqrt{19152}}{6} = 51.065 \text{ and } 4.93487$$

$$\therefore E_{\min} = 0.125002 \frac{\hbar^2}{m}$$

$$E_{\text{exact}} = 0.125000 \frac{\hbar^2}{m}$$



So what will do this, we do that and will actually come back to particle in a box with little bit of twist when we talk about orthonormal functions. So let us quickly recap what we learnt in the previous module about variational calculation that you perform for particle in a box. There we had represented the wave function as $c_1 f_1 + c_2 f_2$ where f_1 was x into $1 - x$, f_2 was x square into $1 - x$ whole square at the orthonormal you figure out.

But they definitely not the functions that we get by solving the Schrodinger equation exactly that we have done towards the beginning of this module of this course, so and this is the Hamiltonian – \hbar cross square by $2m$ d^2/dx^2 . So, what we did was that we wrote this secular equation and then we found out the expressions for all of these Matrix elements, H_{11} H_{12} H_{21} H_{22} S_{11} S_{12} S_{21} S_{22} and then knowing these expressions and substituting E' for E by \hbar cross square this secular determinant simplified into this form.

$\frac{1}{6} - \frac{E'}{30}$ $\frac{1}{30} - \frac{E'}{140}$ $\frac{1}{30} - \frac{E'}{140}$ $\frac{1}{105} - \frac{E'}{630}$ that the determinant is equal to 0. This expands as a quadratic equation which has 2 roots 51.065 and 4.93487 of course out of these, this is a lower value and this is ground state energy and then what we did is we wrote this in terms of \hbar cross square by m and we compare with this minimum value that we got of energy with the exact value of energy that we got earlier and we see the agreement is really, really good.

If you only if you go to the sixth place of decimal there is a difference between the calculated minimum value of energy and the calculated exact value of energy that is so we are good here. But then just because it has worked nicely for particle in a box does not mean that it will work if use arbitrary wave functions for more complicated systems.

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Orthonormal basis for further simplification

$$\phi = \sum_{n=1}^N c_n f_n$$


f_n : Arbitrary **KNOWN** functions
 c_n : Variational parameters

$$\epsilon_0(\phi) = \frac{\langle \phi | \hat{H} | \phi \rangle}{\langle \phi | \phi \rangle}$$

$n = 1, 2, \dots, N : \phi = c_1 f_1 + c_2 f_2 + \dots + c_N f_N$

$H_{11} - ES_{11}$	$H_{12} - ES_{12}$	$H_{1N} - ES_{1N}$	$E = \epsilon_0(\phi)$ $= 0$ in order to have $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_N \neq 0$
$H_{21} - ES_{21}$	$H_{22} - ES_{22}$	$H_{2N} - ES_{2N}$	
⋮	⋮	
⋮	⋮	
$H_{N1} - ES_{N1}$	$H_{N2} - ES_{N2}$	$H_{NN} - ES_{NN}$	

- N roots for E in terms of the integrals
- Evaluate the integrals to obtain the roots
- Lower energy: Ground state



You want to simplify that is why you want to talk about orthonormal basis. So, in this a linear combination that we have; you want to write this f_n that are members of a complete orthonormal set. Of course even before going there if you simply write this expression that no matter whether f_n 's are orthonormal or not you will get this kind of a secular determinant. Last time we had just 2 by 2 determinants this will n by n determinant that is all.

And we will get n roots we have to evaluate integrals and one with lower then it will be the ground state. Now when we use orthonormal basis and we just touched upon this before closing the previous discussion the expressions becomes simpler. And expressions becomes simpler for the simple reason that $S_{ij} = \int f_i^* f_j$ overall space all functions space is equal to δ_{ij} you know that. Then i is equal to j then you get 1 by f_i and f_j are normal normalized.

And of course we are saying that they belong to orthonormal basis set so they are anomalies and if i is not equal to j then well once again remember they belong to orthonormal set. So if i is not equal to j then this integral become 0. So, what happens to the determinant in that case $H_{11} - ES$

11 and this S_{11} becomes 1. So this becomes H_{11} minus this 12 position S_{12} becomes 0 so the second term then vanishes completely left with only H_{12} and that happens for all the other elements all the way until H_{1n} this S_{1n} also becomes 0.

And if you go from top to bottom in the first column all the second term vanishes because they are of S_{ij} type. The 22 term what happens there S_{22} is equal to 1 so you get $H_{22} - E$, so what is that the diagonal elements all like $H_{ii} - E$ half diagonal elements are all $H_{ij} H_{ji}$ type so this is what you get. $H_{11} - E$ H_{12} H_{13} so on and so forth then until it reaches H_{1n} when you go down $H_{11} - E$ H_{21} H_{31} so on and so forth until it reaches H_{1n} and diagonal elements $H_{ii} - E$ that is what you get.

And then already the expression has become simpler. What about H_{12} and H_{21} ? Can we say that there are 0, yeah, actually we cannot. Do you think that their 0 it is not necessarily correct. You going to encounter a situation where there is 0 but it is not the general case why because if you write this H_{ij} any i any j write H_{ij} that is equal to $\int f_i H f_j$ ah the problem is f_j usually would be the eigenfunction of the Hamiltonian of the system that is solvable exactly generally that what we chose.

So this Hamiltonian is different for example well we have not taken the example yet that when we take it we will see this Hamiltonian is not usually the Hamiltonian of this system for which we can solve Schrodinger equation exactly given that we can write the Hamiltonian. So, this is not necessary that f_j is an eigenfunction of this Hamiltonian. So will not get an will not get a constant coming out of the integral always sometimes we can have special cases we will see.

So what will do it will keep H_{ij} for now and we will said this S_{ij} for $i \neq j$ is equal to 0 and we get this kind of a secular determinant.

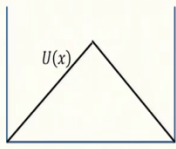
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Particle in a box, with a twist

$$U(x) = V_1 x \quad 0 \leq x \leq \frac{L}{2}$$

$$= V_1(L-x) \quad \frac{L}{2} \leq x \leq L$$

Trial function: $\phi(x) = c_1 \psi_1(x) + c_2 \psi_2(x)$



$$\psi_n(x) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{L}} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L}$$

$$H_{11} = \langle \psi_1(x) | \hat{H} | \psi_1(x) \rangle$$

$$= \frac{2}{L} \int_0^{L/2} \sin \frac{\pi x}{L} \left(-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} + V_1 x \right) \sin \frac{\pi x}{L} dx + \frac{2}{L} \int_{L/2}^L \sin \frac{\pi x}{L} \left(-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} + V_1(L-x) \right) \sin \frac{\pi x}{L} dx$$

$$= \frac{\hbar^2}{8mL^2} + V_1 L \left(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{\pi^2} \right)$$

Now we take this example. We go back to a particle in a box but we include in it a twist or rather a bend we want to call it that. What is the bend and twist. We say that here potential energy is not 0 however, we see that potential energy is x dependent. For x lying between 0 and L by 2 half of the box the potential energy is V1 multiplied by x where V1 is a constant. For the other half for x ranging from L by 2 to L it is V1 into L - x.

What happens at x equal to L by 2 to take the first expression to get V1 into L by 2. If we take the second expression then also you get V1 into L by 2 right L - L by 2 that is L by 2 so there is no discontinuity in the function as such. There is a discontinuity is so what does the potential energy look like then? Let us see this is my particle in a box for the first half from the left. Your potential energy will be a straight line with positive slope.

V1 into x for the second half it will be a straight line but with slope that is negative equal in magnitude, but negative. Now in this system let us use this trial function Phi of x is equal to c 1 Psi1 of x + c 2 Psi 2 of x what was Psi1 and Psi2 remember what you want to do you want to use an orthonormal function. And while using orthonormal function it makes sense to use of the orthonormal eigenfunctions of the Hamiltonian of the system for which we can Schrodinger equation exactly.

Then things will start making sense. I want to talk about particle in a box the orthonormal set that we use at least start with; it makes sense to take the wave functions of the Hamiltonian for a particle in a box in which the potential energy is 0 as long as a particle is inside box, and we know that the solutions are something like this $\Psi_n(x)$ is equal to $\sqrt{2/L} \sin(n\pi x/L)$ as we know ranges from 1 2 3 4 all the way up Infinity that is the contours of the quantum numbers.

So, remember when I say $\Psi_1(x)$ essentially mean n equal to 1 put in this expression when I say $\Psi_2(x)$ I mean n equal to 2 put in this expression. So this is the formulation of a problem. As usual, I am not going to solve this please in fact this case you also do not need to solve every step you need to understand the logic. If you can solve it then it is even better. But as long as you understand the logic do not have to remember the final expression, please remember that.

A lot of things where you need to know the formula or anything you need to know only the very basic formulas that we already know by now, please do not try to remember that it makes no sense at all. Try to understand the logic. So, what will we do now, we know what the potential is. we know what the trial function is and we have expressed it as a linear combination of the orthonormal eigen functions of the Hamiltonian of particle in a box for which E is equal to 0 as long as the particle is within the box.

Now, we want to evaluate the matrix elements one by one. I show you some steps of H_{11} . How do we write $H_{11} = \int \Psi_1^*(x) H \Psi_1(x) dx$ in this case of course star is redundant just $\Psi_1(x)$ is fine because $\Psi_1(x)$ is fine because it is real function. That left multiplying Hamiltonian operating on $\Psi_1(x)$. Let me for the record will refer to it shortly, but let me even now write it once what is this Hamiltonian? What is the Hamiltonian for your particle in a box for which V equal to 0 intensity inside and V equal to infinity outside.

It is of a kinetic energy term $-\hbar^2 / 2m \frac{d^2}{dx^2}$ a 1D box we might as well write the $\frac{d^2}{dx^2}$ that is for the particle in a box that we have studied earlier. In this case particle in a box with at least we have an additional potential energy term which itself changes its expression at x equal to $L/2$ so to write the general expression I will write the Hamiltonian is $-\hbar^2 / 2m \frac{d^2}{dx^2} + U(x)$ plus let me just write $U(x)$.

Depending on what x is, depending on what x is, we are going to use the appropriate expression for U of x the potential. So this is what will use depending on the value of x of course, we are going to get 2 terms is not it. When you expand this integral first of all there are 2 terms and secondly we have the second term is different for different ranges of x . Circulate 2 integrals one with limit from 0 to $L/2$ the other with limits from $L/2$ to L so that we can write this analytical form of U of x .

This is what I will write $2/L$ where does $2/L$ come from well Ψ_1 and Ψ_2 remember in this case both are Ψ_1 so $\sqrt{2/L}$ $\sqrt{2/L}$ so I take $2/L$ outside and integral between limit 0 to $L/2$ $\sin \pi x/L$ multiplying the Hamiltonian that everything written here in this case U of x is substituted by $V_1 x$ because I am integrating only after $L/2$ that operating on $\sin \pi x/L dx$. what will the second integral be?

Same thing except well similar except the limits would be from $L/2$ to L and instead of $V_1 x$ here I will write $V_1(L-x)$ this is what it is. So I have written down the expression for H_{11} . What do you get? What do you get if you try to say expand the first integer? That is the final answer let me write the first integral. So here writing this $\sin \pi x/L - h$ cross by $2m$ by d^2 by $dx^2 \sin \pi x/L$ square and what I do is I bring this here also proved to be really here.

So this first one I can write it as E_1 here will be equal to integral essentially Ψ_1 of x well, do not forget the limit 0 to $L/2$ this one is Hamiltonian ok since we know perturbation theory already I will use the language of perturbation theory here. I will write 0th order Hamiltonian, 0th order Hamiltonian means of a particle in a box in which potential energy inside the box is 0. Ok, so you can think that this is 0th order Hamiltonian. And this is the first order correction.

So I will just write like this operating on Ψ_1 of $x dx$ I already know what is H_{0th} operating on Ψ_1 of x is that is basically the left-hand side of Schrodinger equation for n equal to 1. So it will be your E_1 multiplied by Ψ_1 n , for particle in a box with potential energy is 0 what is E_1 ? x square by π square m is it not. If L equal to 1. If L equal to L then it will be a L square. Ok. So this turns out to be just energy and then you integrate.

So, this is equal to something like I will write $\frac{1}{2} \int_0^L \psi^2 dx$. So, now tell me what is $\int_0^L \psi^2 dx$ between limit 0 to L by 2. If I integrated from 0 to L what would have been? it would have been 1 total probability. So 0 to L by 2 for the symmetric wave function here that is going to be half. So this is how you expect. What about the second one; in well second term arising out of the first part here.

It will be V_1 will come out here and then you will get \int_0^L and I erase all this and I will write. What I am saying is I take root over 2 by $L \sin \pi x / L$ and multiply it by $V_1 x$ then again $\sin \pi x / L$ will you agree that; I will call it L^2 will be equal to \int_0^L I can write again ψ^2 as we discussed earlier multiplied by x multiplied by $\psi^2 dx$ and V_1 will come out is it not V_1 is a constant remember.

So this will be $V_1 \int_0^L x \sin^2 \pi x / L dx$, does that ring a bell or does this ring a bell? If I only change the limit from 0 to L by 2, 0 to L then this integral would be your average value of position. Here I am just integrating from 0 to L by 2. Now you know how to solve this integral using integration by parts. So that is what one has to do I am skipping all the steps but I told you. How to go about it and well I encourage you to do this by yourself.

When you do that and then when you do when you perform a similar treatment to the second term that is there then the final result that I show you is this is $h^2 / 8mL^2$. Remember what $h^2 / 8mL^2$ queries is? $h^2 / 8mL^2$ is essentially the energy of the particle in a box when potential energy inside is 0 potential energy outside is infinity. So that is what it is and the second term arises out of well, I will call it the second term because I written it as V_1 into n multiplied by something that arises from the second terms of these integrals.

If you do it; it is a little long but it is definitely not undoable. So, this is the result we get this here is your H_{11} . And H_{12} and H_{21} turnout to be 0 and will discuss little later.

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Secular determinant and energy

$$U(x) = V_1 x \quad 0 \leq x \leq \frac{L}{2}$$

$$= V_1(L-x) \quad \frac{L}{2} \leq x \leq L$$

Trial function: $\phi(x) = c_1 \psi_1(x) + c_2 \psi_2(x)$

$$\psi_n(x) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{L}} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L}$$

$$E_n = \frac{4n^2 \hbar^2}{8mL^2}$$

$$E = \frac{\hbar^2}{8mL^2} + V_1 L \left(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{\pi^2} \right)$$

$$E = \frac{\hbar^2}{2mL^2} + \frac{V_1 L}{4}$$

$$H_{11} = \frac{\hbar^2}{8mL^2} + V_1 L \left(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{\pi^2} \right) \quad H_{12} = H_{21} = 0$$

$$H_{22} = \frac{\hbar^2}{2mL^2} + \frac{V_1 L}{4}$$

$$\begin{vmatrix} \frac{\hbar^2}{8mL^2} + V_1 L \left(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{\pi^2} \right) - E & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{\hbar^2}{2mL^2} + \frac{V_1 L}{4} - E \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

$$H_{12} = \int_0^L \frac{2}{L} \sin \frac{\pi x}{L} \left(-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} + U(x) \right) \sqrt{\frac{2}{L}} \sin \frac{2\pi x}{L} dx$$

$$H_{12} = E_2 \int_0^L \psi_1(x) \cdot \psi_2(x) dx + \int_0^L \psi_1(x) \cdot U(x) \cdot \psi_2(x) dx$$

= 0 as wavefunctions are orthogonal to each other

- Block factorized determinant
- Same result as that from perturbation theory
- $\psi_2(x)$ makes no contribution to ground state energy

Why is that they are equal to 0 remember they are not necessarily equal to 0 but will prove that they are equal to 0. H 22 turns out to be a h square by 2 m square multiplied by V1 L by 4. So, this h cross square by 8m L square that is energy of n equal to 1 right. So I think I have written it later but in case I have not, I write it like this Epsilon 1. Do you agree with me that this is epsilon 2, what is the epsilon n? Right here is equal to n square h square by 8m L square.

So if n equal to 2 then this becomes 4, 4 by 8 is half that is how you get this. So this is very nice is not it the first energy that we get it H 11 the first matrix element that we get that is essentially the energy of particle in a box for V is equal to 0 plus now again remembering or remembering what we learnt in perturbation theory plus we can see a correction term provided V1 is very small.

H 22 is energy of the second energy level plus correction term provided V1 is very small and the corrections are not exactly the same. Here it is V1 L well for H 22 it is V1 L by 4 for H 11 it is L by 4 + 1 by phi square. We will see how this is important, let us go ahead and finish our discussion. The secular determinant we get is this and is very nice because it is a block factorised determinate since H 12 is equal to H 21 is equal to 0 we get a block factorized determinant.

And block factorized matrices and determinants a lovely because now see this solution becomes so easy, so what happens then is this, this is H 11 this is H 22 ideally you have to write H 11 into

H_{22} is equal to 0 minus well H_{11} into H_{22} is equal to 0 that is what we get. If you do not have nonzero diagonal elements, then it would be H_{11} into $H_{22} - H_{21}$ to H_{12} and you have to solve whatever equation you got.

Now it is H_{11} into H_{22} is equal to 0 directly gives you H_{11} equal to 0 or H_{22} equal to 0 so you do not have to even go into perturbation theory when H_{11} equal to 0. I simply get E equal to $\frac{h^2}{8mL^2} + V_1 \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{\pi^2}$. So this thing that we get here is really one of the roots for energy. So what we see here is the one of the solutions is the energy for a H equal to for n equal to 1 plus a correction term that one of the roots.

The second root to get by equating H_{22} to 0 is equal to $\frac{h^2}{2mL^2} + V_1 \frac{1}{4}$ so once again energy of n equal to 2 plus a correction term that is very nice. We know that these two are the energies of n equal to 1 and n equal to 2 for the regular particle in a box that we have studied the earlier and that is really very nice. So, whatever energy we got earlier plus some correction term. So that is the advantage of having block factorize determinant.

You got the two roots which one is low energy which one is higher energy most likely this is lower energy unless this $V_1 \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{\pi^2}$. This is really, really low energy if that happens then but then that it will add here also. So this is lower energy we can say that which with sufficient confidence. Ok. Now if you did this same treatment for perturbation theory which not doing explicitly, you get the same result.

And we should be willing to believe that also because the result is definitely I mean in line with what one gets perturbation theory 0th order energy plus first order correction right that is what you get these two theories are in agreement with this. Important thing here is that there is no contribution of Ψ_2 in ground state energy. In ground state energy is the unperturbed energy if I can say plus a correction term this is small it is nowhere close to the energy of the second level.

And that happens because this H_{12} and H_{21} are 0. So now better discuss. Why is it that H_{12} or H_{21} must be equal to 0 in the case that we have discussed. Let us write it out H_{12} is integral 1 to L now I can write 1 to L because I am writing the general expression for U of x I am not

writing $V_1(x)$ or $V_2(x)$ into $L - x$ depending on the range I choose I can substitute $U(x)$ as $V_1(x)$ or $V_2(x)$ into $L - x$. So this is the general expression we get.

Of course we can break it down into two terms and when you do that in the first time again, what do I have I have Ψ_1 then Hamiltonian unperturbed Hamiltonian operating on Ψ_1 . So, of course I get; unperturbed Hamiltonian operating on Ψ_2 not Ψ_1 I am not talking about H_{11} any more I am talking about H_{12} so eigen function that we have of the Hamiltonian gives me an eigenvalue of E_2 when the unperturbed Hamiltonian operates on Ψ_2 I get E_2 which is constant comes out of the bracket.

Integrate from 0 to L $\Psi_1(x)$ multiplied by $\Psi_2(x)$ dx what is that? That is definitely equal to 0 because Ψ_1 and Ψ_2 are orthogonal to each other. What about the second integral? Integral 0 to L $\Psi_1(x) U(x) \Psi_2(x)$ actually to evaluate it there is no need for me to write the explicit form of $U(x)$. Because one thing I know for sure is that it goes up and goes down remember it is like a triangle. So, it is symmetric with respect to the midpoint.

So $\Psi_1(x)$ is symmetric that we know already a sin function that does not good for known. $\Psi_2(x)$ is antisymmetric like this $\nu(x)$ is symmetric and we have studied this when we talked about particle in a box allow transition disallow transition what happens when the integrand is a triple product of two symmetric and antisymmetric functions, integrand is antisymmetric and we know by now that an integral of an antisymmetric integrand is equal to 0 is necessarily equal to 0.

So, both the terms of H_{12} or H_{21} for that matter would be equal to 0 that is why H_{12} and H_{21} is 0 in this case and that is what makes life very simple for us.

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Higher energy, lower contribution

Let $\hat{H} = \hat{H}^{(0)} + \hat{H}^{(1)}$ $\phi = c_1\psi_1 + c_2\psi_2$ $\hat{H}^{(0)}\psi_j = E_j^{(0)}\psi_j$ $E_i^{(1)} = \langle \psi_i | \hat{H}^{(1)} | \psi_i \rangle$


Secular equation:

$$\begin{vmatrix} H_{11} - E & H_{12} \\ H_{21} & H_{22} - E \end{vmatrix} = 0 \qquad \begin{vmatrix} E_1^{(0)} + E_1^{(1)} - E & H_{12} \\ H_{21} & E_2^{(0)} + E_2^{(1)} - E \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

Solving the quadratic equation and using a power series expansion,

$$E = E_1^{(0)} + E_1^{(1)} + \frac{H_{12}^2}{E_1^{(0)} + E_1^{(1)} - (E_2^{(0)} + E_2^{(1)})} + \dots$$

For $E_1^{(0)} + E_1^{(1)} \ll (E_2^{(0)} + E_2^{(1)})$ $E = E_1^{(0)} + E_1^{(1)}$



This leads to this interesting observation that Psi 2 of x makes no contribution to ground state energy. Only Psi 1 of x makes the contribution to it. This is a general; this is sort of a subset of a more general phenomenon that when we express our trial wave function as a linear combination of orthonormal functions then functions with higher energy have lower contribution to the ground state. So, now let us slide again using the notation with plant in perturbation theory Hamiltonian is 0th order Hamiltonian plus first order correction phi.

This is what we written in our earlier treatment of variation variational treatment phi equal to c 1 Psi 1 c2 Psi 2. Now you are saying that this Psi's are eigen functions of 0th order Hamiltonian eigenvalues E j0. So the secular equation we get in this case. What would they be? They would be H 11 – c H 12 H 21 H 22 - c what we have learnt earlier. What is H ii we have H 11 H12 separately as just H ii. This is what H ii is, 2 terms the first time I hope you can see without much hassle you done it just now.

First term is a E 0th multiplied by integral Psi i star Psi i over all space which will be equal to 1 plus integral Psi 1 Psi i first order correction to Hamiltonian operating on Psi i. So, what is this, the second term? The first term of course is E i 0th and corrected energy second term as we have learnt in our perturbation treatment is the first order correction to energy. So we get E ith 0 plus first order correction to energy to that is what we use and this is what we get and then if you

solve the quadratic equation and jumping steps here and if we use a power series expansion, then this is the approximate result to get.

Then you will few more terms but they will make progressively lower contribution to get E_1 equal to E_{10th} plus first order correction to E_1 plus this H_{12} square divided by E_{0th} plus first E_{1st} minus so on and so forth. If you now remember the earlier problem of particle in a box with that triangular potential you will remember H_{12} is equal to 0 there it automatically follows that E is equal to this 0th order energy plus the first order correction.

For other general solutions if you work in the regime that the energy levels are sufficiently; the spacing between the energy level successive energy levels is sufficiently large if you work in that regime, which is a reasonable approximation reasonable think to imagine then this difference is going to be large. If this is large, then this term will become smaller H_{12} in a very large. Then approximately you get E equal to $E_{10th} + E_{1st}$ so the higher terms do not even contribute to the ground state energy.

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The general case

$$\phi = \sum_{j=1}^N c_j f_j \quad \text{where } f_j \text{ contain variational parameters themselves}$$


Hydrogen atom: $\phi = \sum_{j=1}^N c_j e^{-\alpha_j r^2}$

N	$E_{min}/(\mu e^4/16\pi^2 \epsilon_0^2 \hbar^2)$
1	-0.424413
2	-0.485813
5	-0.499760
16	-0.499980
Exact	-0.50000

Secular determinant: Complicated, as not only coefficients but also functions contain the variational parameter

Numerical solutions \Rightarrow Algorithms \Rightarrow Computational Chemistry

Departure from exact solutions



So that is what we have and now to close this discussion let us just introduced the general case. We are talking about linear combination of orthonormal wave functions and what we have said so far is that it is the coefficient that is the variational parameters that is not necessarily the case. I can also have variational parameters within this orthonormal functions themselves the f

themselves. For example for hydrogen atom we can write the function like this sum over j $c_j e^{-\alpha_j r}$ to the power $-\alpha_j r$ squared.

So this is this function here is similar to the one is wave function with the exception that this coefficient in the exponent is also a variational parameter so 2 variational parameters gives me greater flexibility of course you can play with number terms. so once again remember hydrogen atom is exactly solvable. But if you do a variational calculation using this kind of parameter, this kind of a linear combination and keep increasing the number of n 's what you see is this if you use n equal to 1 this is the energy that you get -0.4244413 .

If you increase the numbers n go from 1 to 2 it becomes lower to μ_e even lower 16 -0.49980 now exact calculation that let me remind you in terms what is given here μ_e to the power 4 by $16 \pi^2 \epsilon_0^2 x^2$, the exact calculation that we got earlier is -0.5 . So now when you increase the number of terms to 16 you get very close to the exact solution. So what we learn from here is that in the general case, if increase number of terms you will closer to the energy.

And that is by using the power of variation theorem, upper limit theorem. One thing to understand here if we include the variation parameter in the functions themselves is that the secular determinant is complicated because the variation parameter is also there in the functions. In fact we will not be able to get an analytical solution like what we have been getting so far. You have to solve this numerical put in numbers for solution that you get changed the numbers see what solution that you get.

And you need different kinds of algorithms and this opens up the field of computational chemistry. I think I said this opens up field of computational chemistry once earlier will this really takes us into the domain of computational chemistry, but let us talk a little more about this later. Other thing that happens here is that also we are slowly started going away from the exact solutions. We have changed exact solution one is orbitals so by this introducing this variation parameter little more significant than what you have been doing so far.

So eventually you will reach a situation where you perhaps even do not have to start from exact solutions any kind of orthonormal set will do but this week for that. For now we close this discussion and finally we are now ready to resume our discussion of many electron atom the discussion will perform will be on helium.