

Quantum Mechanics and Molecular Spectroscopy
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Lecture-02
Operators and Integrals

Hello I am G. Naresh Patwari and I am teaching quantum mechanics and molecular spectroscopy course, welcome to the lecture number 2. Before we go into lecture number 2 we will have a quick recap of what we have done in lecture number 1.

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$$\frac{\partial^2 \Psi(x,t)}{\partial x^2} = \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \Psi(x,t)}{\partial t^2}$$

$$\Psi(x,t) = K e^{i\alpha x} \quad \alpha = 2\pi \left(\frac{x}{\lambda} - \nu t \right)$$

$$E = h\nu \quad \lambda = \frac{h}{p}$$

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} = \hat{E} = \hat{H} \quad -i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial x} = \hat{p}_x$$

$$\Psi(x,t) = \text{Wavefunction}$$

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \Psi(x,t) = \left\{ \frac{-\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \hat{V}(x,t) \right\} \Psi(x,t)$$

$$\hat{H}$$

In the lecture number 1 starting with classical wave equation which is nothing but d square by dx square of psi of x, t is equal to 1 over c square d square by dt square psi of x, t where psi of x, t is equal to Ke to the power of i alpha and alpha is equal to 2 pi x by lambda - nu t. Using this information from classical equations combined with E equals to h nu and lambda is equal to h by P is Planck Einstein equation and the de Broglie equation.

We arrived at 2 operators i h bar d by dt is equal to operator E or operator h - h bar d by dx is equal to operator p x. We further developed that the psi of x t is equal to wave function and is governed by the time dependent Schrodinger equation which says i h bar d by dt of psi of x, t is equal to - h bar square by 2m t square by dx square + V of x, t acting on psi of x, t. Therefore the

time dependence of the wave function ψ of x t will depend on the Hamiltonian equation and this is called Hamiltonian operator H ok.

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$$\hat{V}(x,t) \Rightarrow \hat{V}(x)$$

$$\hat{H} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \hat{V}(x,t)$$

$$\hat{H} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \hat{V}(x) \rightarrow \text{time independent}$$

$$\Psi(x,t) = \psi(x) \cdot \phi(t)$$

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \Psi(x,t) = \left\{ -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \hat{V}(x) \right\} \Psi(x,t)$$

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \Psi(x,t) = \hat{H} \Psi(x,t)$$

It turns out that in many problems that we deal in chemistry, the potential energy operator V of x t can be termed as V of x because has no time dependence. For example you will take a hydrogen atom and hydrogen atom will remain as hydrogen atom in for the infinite time because the potential is time independent. Similarly harmonic cost arrival will continue to remain harmonic oscillator.

So, most of the problems or the systems that we deal in quantum chemistry in chemistry in particular have no time dependence on the potential. Therefore H which was $-\hbar^2$ square by $2m$ b square by dx square + V of x , t can be written as $-\hbar^2$ square by $2m$ d square by dx square + V of x . You will see that the kinetic energy operator which is nothing but $-\hbar^2$ square by $2m$ d square by dx square has no time dependence.

Similarly the potential energy also has no time dependence hence the Hamiltonian becomes time independent. In such a scenario the wave function ψ of x t can be written as product of ψ of x multiplied by ϕ of t . Because if you see Hamiltonian only depends on the coordinate any partial derivative with respect coordinate will have time as a constant. Therefore ϕ of t can be bought out of the wave function.

If you go back to the Schrodinger equation which is nothing but $i \hbar \frac{d}{dt} \psi(x, t)$ is equal to $-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} \psi(x, t) + V(x) \psi(x, t)$. I will write it as $i \hbar \frac{d}{dt} \psi(x, t)$ is equal to $H \psi(x, t)$ but your $\psi(x, t)$ is now a product of $\psi(x)$ into $\phi(t)$.

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Handwritten derivation showing the separation of variables in the Schrodinger equation:

$$i \hbar \frac{d}{dt} (\psi(x)\phi(t)) = \hat{H} (\psi(x)\phi(t))$$

$$\psi(x) i \hbar \frac{d}{dt} \phi(t) = \phi(t) \hat{H} \psi(x)$$

divide both sides with $\psi(x)\phi(t)$

$$\frac{\psi(x) i \hbar \frac{d}{dt} \phi(t)}{\psi(x)\phi(t)} = \frac{\phi(t) \hat{H} \psi(x)}{\psi(x)\phi(t)}$$

$$\boxed{\frac{1}{\phi(t)} i \hbar \frac{d}{dt} \phi(t)} = \boxed{\frac{1}{\psi(x)} \hat{H} \psi(x)} = W = f(t) = g(x)$$

function of 't' function of 'x'

So, the Schrodinger equation now becomes $i \hbar \frac{d}{dt} \psi(x) \phi(t)$ is equal to $H \psi(x) \phi(t)$. Now $\frac{d}{dt}$ on the left hand side $\frac{d}{dt}$ when it acts on $\psi(x) \phi(t)$ becomes a constant. Similarly H which only depends on the coordinates acts on $\phi(t)$ becomes constant. Therefore one can get $\psi(x)$ outside and $\phi(t)$ outside, so when I do that I can write this equation as $\psi(x) i \hbar \frac{d}{dt} \phi(t)$ is equal to $\phi(t) H \psi(x)$.

What I am going to do is I am going to divide both sides with $\psi(x) \phi(t)$, when I do that $\psi(x) i \hbar \frac{d}{dt} \phi(t)$ is equal to $\phi(t) H \psi(x)$ divided by $\psi(x) \phi(t)$ divided by $\psi(x) \phi(t)$ or this $\phi(t)$ will cancel on both sides on the numerator and denominator this $\psi(x)$ will cancel on the both numerator and denominator. So, what you will get is $\frac{1}{\phi(t)} i \hbar \frac{d}{dt} \phi(t)$ is equal to $\frac{1}{\psi(x)} H \psi(x)$.

You will see that the left hand side is a function of t and the right hand side is a function of x . So, I am equating 2 functions of 2 different variables, for example if I equate $f(x)$ with $g(y)$ this

will be only possible if both the functions, this will be possible only if both the functions are equal to a constant and that constant I will call it as w .

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$$\frac{1}{i\hbar} \frac{\partial \phi(t)}{\partial t} = W \phi(t) \quad \frac{1}{\hbar} \frac{\partial \psi(x)}{\partial t} = W \psi(x)$$

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \phi(t)}{\partial t} = W \phi(t) \quad \hat{H} \psi(x) = W \psi(x)$$

$$\hat{H} = \text{Total Energy Operator} = E$$

$$W \Rightarrow E$$

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \phi(t)}{\partial t} = E \phi(t) \text{---(2)} \quad \hat{H} \psi(x) = E \psi(x) \text{---(3)}$$

$$\hat{H} \psi(x) = E \psi(x)$$

$$\hat{H} \psi = E \psi$$

So, you end up getting 2 equations because of that one t and one is x 1 over π of t i \hbar d by dt of π of t is equal to w , 1 over ψ of x ψ of x is equal to w . So, when I rewrite i \hbar d by dt of π of t is equal to W π of t , H ψ of x is equal to w ψ of x . Now we know Hamiltonian is nothing but the total energy operator. So, H is equal to and this is also equal to operator E that is something that we have discussed in class number 1 ok.

So, it is easy to replace w with t there, when I do that what I get is i \hbar d by dt of π of t is equal to e π of t and H ψ of x is equal to E ψ of x . So, I get 2 equations for which both cases E is the Eigen value. So, the Eigen value E will depend on the time dependence of the system and Eigen value E will depend on the coordinates of the system. However, in the first case it will depend on the time dependent operator d by dt .

And in the second case it depends on the Hamiltonian ok and these 2 anyway you can see are equal. And this equation called this equation as 2 and this as 3, we will realize that equation number 3 is nothing but time independent Schrodinger equation which is nothing but equation number 2 will be \hbar ψ of x is equal to E ψ of x generically written as \hbar ψ equals to E ψ and this equation is nothing but your time independent Schrodinger equation.

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$$\begin{aligned}i\hbar \frac{\partial \phi(t)}{\partial t} &= E \phi(t) \\ \frac{\partial \phi(t)}{\partial t} &= \frac{-i}{\hbar} E \phi(t) \\ \phi(t) &= \exp\left[\frac{-iEt}{\hbar}\right] = e^{-iEt/\hbar} \\ \hat{H}\psi(x) &= E\psi(x) \quad \hat{H} = \left\{ \frac{-\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + V(x) \right\} \\ \Psi(x,t) &= \psi(x) \phi(t) \\ &= \psi(x) e^{-iEt/\hbar} \rightarrow \text{phase factor.}\end{aligned}$$

Now, the time dependent equation what you have is $i\hbar \frac{d}{dt} \phi(t) = E \phi(t)$. So, if I slightly rewrite this $\frac{d}{dt} \phi(t) = \frac{-i}{\hbar} E \phi(t)$ when I go on the other side i becomes $-i$. So, $-i\hbar$ will go to denominator $E \phi(t)$, so essentially when I operate $\frac{d}{dt}$ operator on $\phi(t)$ I will get $-i\hbar E$ as a Eigen value ok. Now this means I can solve this first order differential equation very easily ok. And when I solve it the solution will be $\phi(t)$ equal to exponential $-i\hbar E$ times t or simply written as E to the power of $-iEt/\hbar$ ok.

Now the other equation is $\hat{H}\psi(x) = E\psi(x)$ but my \hat{H} is nothing but $-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} + V(x)$ solution to this is going to be much more complicated ok and I have not solved it. We will come to the solutions of it in a minute but the total wave function that is $\Psi(x,t)$ can now be written as $\psi(x) \phi(t)$ which is nothing but $\psi(x)$ into e to the power of $-iEt/\hbar$ ok and in this case this is called phase factor.

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$$\Psi(x,t) = \psi(x) e^{-iEt/\hbar}$$

$$\hat{H}\psi(x) = E\psi(x) \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

$$\hat{H}\psi_n = E_n\psi_n \quad n \rightarrow \text{Quantum Number}$$

$$\{\psi_n\} \leftarrow \{\psi_n\} \rightarrow \text{Complete Set}$$

$$\chi(x) = \sum_i c_i \psi_i(x)$$

$$\{\langle \psi_m | \} \leftarrow \{\psi_m^*\} \rightarrow \text{Complete Set}$$


Total functions wave functions ψ of x , t is equal to ψ of x e to the power of $-iEt/\hbar$. Unfortunately I still do not know how to solve for ψ of x because for that I need to solve $\hat{H}\psi$ of x is equal to $E\psi$ of x ok. Solution to this equation or the time independent Schrodinger equation is beyond the purview of this course. If you want to know how to solve this equation then you might want to look up other NPTEL courses such as introduction to quantum chemistry by Professor K.L Sebastian.

In this course of course we will assume that we know the solutions typically for a time dependence, typically for a time independent Schrodinger equation. There are many solutions and are of the form $\hat{H}\psi_n$ is equal to $E_n\psi_n$ ok where n is the quantum number ok. Now you get many such solutions for this in fact in some cases you get infinite number of solutions. And if you take a set of all the ψ_n 's this will form what is known as complete set ok.

This complete set simply means that any arbitrary function χ of x can be written as a summation over i $C_i \psi_i$ of x ok. So, any arbitrary function can be written as a linear combination of elements of this complete set. I will give you an example you have a CARTESIAN coordinates x , y and z , any point in the Cartesian space can always be written as a linear combination of x , y and z .

Therefore the Cartesian coordinates x, y, z or the vectors corresponding to x, y, z form a complete set ok. In quantum mechanics for every ψ and there is another set complete set which is made of complex conjugates of ψ of n ok. That is because there are no rules on the wave function as to whether it should be real or complex. In general if a function can be complex. So, when you have complex wave function then there exists a complex conjugate of it.

In the (ψ) (19:37) notation this is written as a (ψ) (19:51) function de Broglie function ok. Now in this case we of course assumed that we all know what ψ_n 's are. For example if we take a hydrogen atom problem the ψ_n 's will be all the orbitals $1s, 2s, 2p, 3s, 3p, 3d$ etc. If we take harmonic oscillator functions will be equal to the V is equal to 0 v is equal to 1 or vibrational quantum number S equal to 0, the function corresponding to that second and third and etc.

If you have particular in a box and then there is a n is equal to 1, n is equal 2, n is equal to 3 function etc ok. In this course of course we will assume that all the solutions are already known, before I move on there are a few things that I would like to define ok.

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Hermitian
 $\langle A \rangle = \langle A^\dagger \rangle$
 Overlap Integral = $\int \psi_m^* \psi_n d\tau = \langle \psi_m | \psi_n \rangle = \delta_{mn}$
 $\delta_{mn} = 1$ ($m=n$)
 $= 0$ ($m \neq n$)
 Expectation Value = $\int \psi_n^* \hat{A} \psi_n = \langle \psi_n | \hat{A} | \psi_n \rangle$
 Average
 Action Integral = $\int \psi_m^* \hat{A} \psi_n = \langle \psi_m | \hat{A} | \psi_n \rangle$

In quantum mechanics any operator corresponding to a physical observable is Hermitian. Hermitian means operator is a self adjutant of itself ok which means A average value, I will come to what average value means average value of an operator A is equal to it is transpose

complex conjugate that is Hermitian. Now I will define a few integrals ok and integrals are definite integrals in quantum mechanics generally the integrals are definite integrals.

So, let us define the first one called overlap integral, this integral is given by $\int \psi_m^* \psi_n d\tau$, $d\tau$ is the corresponding volume element or the surface element or length element in for integration. So this is equal to in bracket notation will be $\langle \psi_m | \psi_n \rangle$ and this is given by for a given system given by $\delta_{m,n}$ ok, $\delta_{m,n}$ is nothing but Kronecker delta. So, $\delta_{m,n}$ is equal to 1 if m is equal to n and 0 if m is not equal to n in such case we get what is known as the orthonormal set ok.

But overlap integral is $\delta_{m,n}$ only if all of ψ_m and ψ_n belong to the same system wave functions of the same system. If they are wave functions of different systems then of course you will have to really evaluate the overlap ok. Then other reason expectation value, it is also called average value ok this is given by $\langle \psi | A | \psi \rangle$ and this will correspond an operator ok average value of an operator A , expectation value of an operator A for a given system.

So, this will come out as $\langle \psi_n | A | \psi_n \rangle$ in terms of bracket notation this is return as $\langle \psi_n | A | \psi_n \rangle$ ok. I do not know what how much you did, I know that it is a number because you know it is a definite integral. But I do not know what is its value, I have to evaluate this number or this integral to get the value it could be 0 as well, expectation value can be 0 ok. And the other one I will call it as an action integral.

Now what is this action integral, I will define this as $\langle \psi_m | A | \psi_n \rangle$, so what does it do, A acts on ψ_n and the resulting function gets projected on to the ψ_m ok. So, the bracket notation it is $\langle \psi_m | A | \psi_n \rangle$. For example if I act light on hydrogen atom which is in 1s orbital whatever resulting function you can now project onto either 2s or 2p and in generally this will give us transitions. So, these action integrals are very important in spectroscopy.

Now the other thing that I want to tell you is about the Hermitian operators ok. As I told you that all operators corresponding to physical variables or Hermitian in quantum mechanics.


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$$\langle A \rangle = \langle A^\dagger \rangle^*$$

$$\int \psi_m^* A \psi_n d\tau = \int (A \psi_m)^* \psi_n d\tau = \left[\int \psi_n^* A \psi_m d\tau \right]^*$$

$$\langle \psi_m | A | \psi_n \rangle = \left[\langle \psi_n | A | \psi_m \rangle \right]^*$$

Hermitian operator
 \hookrightarrow Real Expectation Values.



So, we just said that A average is equal to A average transpose star. Now if I write in terms of integrals then this will be in the case of Hermitian operators will be integral $\psi_m^* A \psi_n d\tau$ equal to integral $A \psi_m$ whole star $\psi_n d\tau$ is also equal to $\psi_n^* A \psi_m d\tau$ whole star ok. In bracket notation one can write $\langle \psi_m | A | \psi_n \rangle$ is equal to $\langle \psi_n | A | \psi_m \rangle^*$ ok. Now this is properties of Hermitian operator ok and Hermitian operators give real expectation values ok.

So, because all physical observables were correspond to some real expert values. So, when you measure momentum it should be a real number, when you measure kinetic energy it should be real number, if you measure position it should be real number. So, operators that correspond to momentum, position, kinetic energy or Hermitian operators. We will stop it here, we will continue with the in the next lecture.