

Computing the time dependent amplitude function

Now that we have $\vec{A}(q)$, how do we find the time dependence of $\vec{\Psi}(x, t)$? Since $\vec{A}(q)$ is the coefficient vector for the eigenfunctions of \mathcal{H} , we know the time dependence is accounted for by multiplying each coefficient by $e^{-iEt/\hbar}$. So, we now create a vector \vec{E} , indexed by q .

$$\vec{E} = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} * \vec{q}^2 = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \begin{pmatrix} q_1^2 \\ q_2^2 \\ q_3^2 \\ \vdots \\ q_m^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Now, if we take the exponential of $-it/\hbar$ times each element, where t is the time we wish to evaluate $\vec{\Psi}(x)$ at, we get

$$\vec{\zeta} = \begin{pmatrix} e^{-iE_1 t/\hbar} \\ e^{-iE_2 t/\hbar} \\ \vdots \\ e^{-iE_m t/\hbar} \end{pmatrix}$$

Now, if we perform element by element multiplication (MATLAB® command is ``.*'') on $\vec{\zeta}$ and $\vec{A}(q)$ we get:

$$\vec{A}_t(q) = \vec{A}(q) .* \vec{\zeta}(q) = \begin{pmatrix} A(q_1)\zeta(q_1) \\ A(q_2)\zeta(q_2) \\ \vdots \\ A(q_m)\zeta(q_m) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} A(q_1)e^{-iE_1 t/\hbar} \\ A(q_2)e^{-iE_2 t/\hbar} \\ \vdots \\ A(q_m)e^{-iE_m t/\hbar} \end{pmatrix}$$

Now, we have taken account for the time dependence by modifying our amplitude function (note the subscript t to denote that this is $A(q)$ at a particular time t).

The last chore is to now compute the wave function in x -space from the modified amplitude function.