Contents

Preface to the Second Edition xiii

Preface to the First Edition xv

Note to the Student xvi

1 Origins of Quantum Physics 1
1.1 Historical Note . . . 1
1.2 Particle Aspect of Radiation . . . 4
1.2.1 Blackbody Radiation . . . 4
1.2.2 Photoelectric Effect . . . 10
1.2.3 Compton Effect . . . 13
1.2.4 Pair Production . . . 16
1.3 Wave Aspect of Particles . . . 18
1.3.1 de Broglie's Hypothesis: Matter Waves . . . 18
1.3.2 Experimental Confirmation of de Broglie's Hypothesis . . . 18
1.3.3 Matter Waves for Macroscopic Objects . . . 20
1.4 Particles versus Waves . . . 22
1.4.1 Classical View of Particles and Waves . . . 22
1.4.2 Quantum View of Particles and Waves . . . 23
1.4.3 Wave–Particle Duality: Complementarity . . . 26
1.4.4 Principle of Linear Superposition . . . 27
1.5 Indeterministic Nature of the Microphysical World . . . 27
1.5.1 Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle . . . 28
1.5.2 Probabilistic Interpretation . . . 30
1.6 Atomic Transitions and Spectroscopy . . . 30
1.6.1 Rutherford Planetary Model of the Atom . . . 30
1.6.2 Bohr Model of the Hydrogen Atom . . . 31
1.7 Quantization Rules . . . 36
1.8 Wave Packets . . . 38
1.8.1 Localized Wave Packets . . . 39
1.8.2 Wave Packets and the Uncertainty Relations . . . 42
1.8.3 Motion of Wave Packets . . . 43
1.9 Concluding Remarks . . . 54
1.10 Solved Problems . . . 54
1.11 Exercises . . . 71

2 Mathematical Tools of Quantum Mechanics 79
2.1 Introduction . . . 79
2.2 The Hilbert Space and Wave Functions . . . 79
2.2.1 The Linear Vector Space . . . 79
2.2.2 The Hilbert Space . . . 80
2.2.3 Dimension and Basis of a Vector Space . . . 81
2.2.4 Square-Integrable Functions: Wave Functions . . . 84
2.3 Dirac Notation . . . 84
2.4 Operators . . . 89
2.4.1 General Definitions . . . 89
2.4.2 Hermitian Adjoint . . . 91
2.4.3 Projection Operators . . . 92
2.4.4 Commutator Algebra . . . 93
2.4.5 Uncertainty Relation between Two Operators . . . 95
2.4.6 Functions of Operators . . . 97
2.4.7 Inverse and Unitary Operators . . . 98
2.4.8 Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors of an Operator . . . 99
2.4.9 Infinitesimal and Finite Unitary Transformations . . . 101
2.5 Representation in Discrete Bases . . . 104
2.5.1 Matrix Representation of Kets, Bras, and Operators . . . 105
2.5.2 Change of Bases and Unitary Transformations . . . 114
2.5.3 Matrix Representation of the Eigenvalue Problem . . . 117
2.6 Representation in Continuous Bases . . . 121
2.6.1 General Treatment . . . 121
2.6.2 Position Representation . . . 123
2.6.3 Momentum Representation . . . 124
2.6.4 Connecting the Position and Momentum Representations . . . 124
2.6.5 Parity Operator . . . 128
2.7 Matrix and Wave Mechanics . . . 130
2.7.1 Matrix Mechanics . . . 130
2.7.2 Wave Mechanics . . . 131
2.8 Concluding Remarks . . . 132
2.9 Solved Problems . . . 133
2.10 Exercises . . . 155

3 Postulates of Quantum Mechanics 165
3.1 Introduction . . . 165
3.2 The Basic Postulates of Quantum Mechanics . . . 165
3.3 The State of a System . . . 167
3.3.1 Probability Density . . . 167
3.3.2 The Superposition Principle . . . 168
3.4 Observables and Operators . . . 170
3.5 Measurement in Quantum Mechanics . . . 172
3.5.1 How Measurements Disturb Systems . . . 172
3.5.2 Expectation Values . . . 173
3.5.3 Complete Sets of Commuting Operators (CSCO) . . . 175
3.5.4 Measurement and the Uncertainty Relations . . . 177

3.6 Time Evolution of the System's State . . . 178
3.6.1 Time Evolution Operator . . . 178
3.6.2 Stationary States: Time-Independent Potentials . . . 179
3.6.3 Schrödinger Equation and Wave Packets . . . 180
3.6.4 The Conservation of Probability . . . 181
3.6.5 Time Evolution of Expectation Values . . . 182
3.7 Symmetries and Conservation Laws . . . 183
3.7.1 Infinitesimal Unitary Transformations . . . 184
3.7.2 Finite Unitary Transformations . . . 185
3.7.3 Symmetries and Conservation Laws . . . 185
3.8 Connecting Quantum to Classical Mechanics . . . 187
3.8.1 Poisson Brackets and Commutators . . . 187
3.8.2 The Ehrenfest Theorem . . . 189
3.8.3 Quantum Mechanics and Classical Mechanics . . . 190
3.9 Solved Problems . . . 191
3.10 Exercises . . . 209

4 One-Dimensional Problems 215
4.1 Introduction . . . 215
4.2 Properties of One-Dimensional Motion . . . 216
4.2.1 Discrete Spectrum (Bound States) . . . 216
4.2.2 Continuous Spectrum (Unbound States) . . . 217
4.2.3 Mixed Spectrum . . . 217
4.2.4 Symmetric Potentials and Parity . . . 218
4.3 The Free Particle: Continuous States . . . 218
4.4 The Potential Step . . . 220
4.5 The Potential Barrier and Well . . . 224
4.5.1 The Case $E > V_0$ . . . 224
4.5.2 The Case $E < V_0$: Tunneling . . . 227
4.5.3 The Tunneling Effect . . . 229
4.6 The Infinite Square Well Potential . . . 231
4.6.1 The Asymmetric Square Well . . . 231
4.6.2 The Symmetric Potential Well . . . 234
4.7 The Finite Square Well Potential . . . 234
4.7.1 The Scattering Solutions ($E > V_0$) . . . 235
4.7.2 The Bound State Solutions ($0 < E < V_0$) . . . 235
4.8 The Harmonic Oscillator . . . 239
4.8.1 Energy Eigenvalues . . . 241
4.8.2 Energy Eigenstates . . . 243
4.8.3 Energy Eigenstates in Position Space . . . 244
4.8.4 The Matrix Representation of Various Operators . . . 247
4.8.5 Expectation Values of Various Operators . . . 248
4.9 Numerical Solution of the Schrödinger Equation . . . 249
4.9.1 Numerical Procedure . . . 249
4.9.2 Algorithm . . . 251
4.10 Solved Problems . . . 252
4.11 Exercises . . . 276

5 Angular Momentum **283**
5.1 Introduction . . . 283
5.2 Orbital Angular Momentum . . . 283
5.3 General Formalism of Angular Momentum . . . 285
5.4 Matrix Representation of Angular Momentum . . . 290
5.5 Geometrical Representation of Angular Momentum . . . 293
5.6 Spin Angular Momentum . . . 295
5.6.1 Experimental Evidence of the Spin . . . 295
5.6.2 General Theory of Spin . . . 297
5.6.3 Spin 1/2 and the Pauli Matrices . . . 298
5.7 Eigenfunctions of Orbital Angular Momentum . . . 301
5.7.1 Eigenfunctions and Eigenvalues of $\hat{L}_z$ . . . 302
5.7.2 Eigenfunctions of $\hat{\vec{L}}^2$ . . . 303
5.7.3 Properties of the Spherical Harmonics . . . 307
5.8 Solved Problems . . . 310
5.9 Exercises . . . 325

6 Three-Dimensional Problems **333**
6.1 Introduction . . . 333
6.2 3D Problems in Cartesian Coordinates . . . 333
6.2.1 General Treatment: Separation of Variables . . . 333
6.2.2 The Free Particle . . . 335
6.2.3 The Box Potential . . . 336
6.2.4 The Harmonic Oscillator . . . 338
6.3 3D Problems in Spherical Coordinates . . . 340
6.3.1 Central Potential: General Treatment . . . 340
6.3.2 The Free Particle in Spherical Coordinates . . . 343
6.3.3 The Spherical Square Well Potential . . . 346
6.3.4 The Isotropic Harmonic Oscillator . . . 347
6.3.5 The Hydrogen Atom . . . 351
6.3.6 Effect of Magnetic Fields on Central Potentials . . . 365
6.4 Concluding Remarks . . . 368
6.5 Solved Problems . . . 368
6.6 Exercises . . . 385

7 Rotations and Addition of Angular Momenta **391**
7.1 Rotations in Classical Physics . . . 391
7.2 Rotations in Quantum Mechanics . . . 393
7.2.1 Infinitesimal Rotations . . . 393
7.2.2 Finite Rotations . . . 395
7.2.3 Properties of the Rotation Operator . . . 396
7.2.4 Euler Rotations . . . 397
7.2.5 Representation of the Rotation Operator . . . 398
7.2.6 Rotation Matrices and the Spherical Harmonics . . . 400
7.3 Addition of Angular Momenta . . . 403
7.3.1 Addition of Two Angular Momenta: General Formalism . . . 403
7.3.2 Calculation of the Clebsch–Gordan Coefficients . . . 409

7.3.3 Coupling of Orbital and Spin Angular Momenta . . . 415
7.3.4 Addition of More Than Two Angular Momenta . . . 419
7.3.5 Rotation Matrices for Coupling Two Angular Momenta . . . 420
7.3.6 Isospin . . . 422
7.4 Scalar, Vector, and Tensor Operators . . . 425
7.4.1 Scalar Operators . . . 426
7.4.2 Vector Operators . . . 426
7.4.3 Tensor Operators: Reducible and Irreducible Tensors . . . 428
7.4.4 Wigner–Eckart Theorem for Spherical Tensor Operators . . . 430
7.5 Solved Problems . . . 434
7.6 Exercises . . . 450

8 Identical Particles **455**
8.1 Many-Particle Systems . . . 455
8.1.1 Schrödinger Equation . . . 455
8.1.2 Interchange Symmetry . . . 457
8.1.3 Systems of Distinguishable Noninteracting Particles . . . 458
8.2 Systems of Identical Particles . . . 460
8.2.1 Identical Particles in Classical and Quantum Mechanics . . . 460
8.2.2 Exchange Degeneracy . . . 462
8.2.3 Symmetrization Postulate . . . 463
8.2.4 Constructing Symmetric and Antisymmetric Functions . . . 464
8.2.5 Systems of Identical Noninteracting Particles . . . 464
8.3 The Pauli Exclusion Principle . . . 467
8.4 The Exclusion Principle and the Periodic Table . . . 469
8.5 Solved Problems . . . 475
8.6 Exercises . . . 484

9 Approximation Methods for Stationary States **489**
9.1 Introduction . . . 489
9.2 Time-Independent Perturbation Theory . . . 490
9.2.1 Nondegenerate Perturbation Theory . . . 490
9.2.2 Degenerate Perturbation Theory . . . 496
9.2.3 Fine Structure and the Anomalous Zeeman Effect . . . 499
9.3 The Variational Method . . . 507
9.4 The Wentzel–Kramers–Brillouin Method . . . 515
9.4.1 General Formalism . . . 515
9.4.2 Bound States for Potential Wells with No Rigid Walls . . . 518
9.4.3 Bound States for Potential Wells with One Rigid Wall . . . 524
9.4.4 Bound States for Potential Wells with Two Rigid Walls . . . 525
9.4.5 Tunneling through a Potential Barrier . . . 528
9.5 Concluding Remarks . . . 530
9.6 Solved Problems . . . 531
9.7 Exercises . . . 562

10 Time-Dependent Perturbation Theory **571**
10.1 Introduction . . . 571
10.2 The Pictures of Quantum Mechanics . . . 571
10.2.1 The Schrödinger Picture . . . 572
10.2.2 The Heisenberg Picture . . . 572
10.2.3 The Interaction Picture . . . 573
10.3 Time-Dependent Perturbation Theory . . . 574
10.3.1 Transition Probability . . . 576
10.3.2 Transition Probability for a Constant Perturbation . . . 577
10.3.3 Transition Probability for a Harmonic Perturbation . . . 579
10.4 Adiabatic and Sudden Approximations . . . 582
10.4.1 Adiabatic Approximation . . . 582
10.4.2 Sudden Approximation . . . 583
10.5 Interaction of Atoms with Radiation . . . 586
10.5.1 Classical Treatment of the Incident Radiation . . . 587
10.5.2 Quantization of the Electromagnetic Field . . . 588
10.5.3 Transition Rates for Absorption and Emission of Radiation . . . 591
10.5.4 Transition Rates within the Dipole Approximation . . . 592
10.5.5 The Electric Dipole Selection Rules . . . 593
10.5.6 Spontaneous Emission . . . 594
10.6 Solved Problems . . . 597
10.7 Exercises . . . 613

11 Scattering Theory **617**
11.1 Scattering and Cross Section . . . 617
11.1.1 Connecting the Angles in the Lab and CM frames . . . 618
11.1.2 Connecting the Lab and CM Cross Sections . . . 620
11.2 Scattering Amplitude of Spinless Particles . . . 621
11.2.1 Scattering Amplitude and Differential Cross Section . . . 623
11.2.2 Scattering Amplitude . . . 624
11.3 The Born Approximation . . . 628
11.3.1 The First Born Approximation . . . 628
11.3.2 Validity of the First Born Approximation . . . 629
11.4 Partial Wave Analysis . . . 631
11.4.1 Partial Wave Analysis for Elastic Scattering . . . 631
11.4.2 Partial Wave Analysis for Inelastic Scattering . . . 635
11.5 Scattering of Identical Particles . . . 636
11.6 Solved Problems . . . 639
11.7 Exercises . . . 650

A The Delta Function **653**
A.1 One-Dimensional Delta Function . . . 653
A.1.1 Various Definitions of the Delta Function . . . 653
A.1.2 Properties of the Delta Function . . . 654
A.1.3 Derivative of the Delta Function . . . 655
A.2 Three-Dimensional Delta Function . . . 656

B Angular Momentum in Spherical Coordinates **657**
B.1 Derivation of Some General Relations . . . 657
B.2 Gradient and Laplacian in Spherical Coordinates . . . 658
B.3 Angular Momentum in Spherical Coordinates . . . 659

C C++ Code for Solving the Schrödinger Equation **661**

Index **665**