

Posted 14.07.2025, due by 12:00pm 21.07.2025.

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Exercise 1 (9 points)

A particle of mass  $m$  is in the ground state of a one-dimensional simple harmonic oscillator, with frequency  $\omega_0$ . At time  $t = 0$  the perturbation

$$V(\hat{x}, t) = V_0 \hat{x}^3 e^{-t/\tau}$$

is switched on, where  $\tau$  is a known constant (with units of time).

1. (4/9) Find the probability that the particle is excited to the first excited state, as  $t \rightarrow +\infty$ .
2. (5/9) Find the probability that the particle will be found in an excited state, as  $t \rightarrow +\infty$ .

Exercise 2 (11 points)

A hydrogen atom is in its ground state as  $t \rightarrow -\infty$ . A weak electric field is applied along the  $z$ -axis,

$$\mathbf{E}(t) = \frac{E_0 \tau}{\tau^2 + t^2} \mathbf{e}_z,$$

where  $\tau$  is a known constant (with units of time).

1. (4/11) Find the selection rules when your initial state is the hydrogen atom ground state.
2. (5/11) Find the probability of finding the atom in the  $2p$  state, as  $t \rightarrow +\infty$ .
3. (2/11) What happens to the above probability when  $\tau \rightarrow 0^+$  and  $\tau \rightarrow +\infty$ ? Comment on the result.