

Exercise 1: Zassenhaus Formula (5+5=10 points)

Consider two operators A and B , with $[A, [A, B]] = [B, [A, B]] = 0$.

i) Derive the Baker-Campbell-Hausdorff formula

$$e^{A+B} = e^A e^B e^{-\frac{1}{2}[A,B]}. \quad (1)$$

For this purpose show

$$[A^n, B] = nA^{n-1}[A, B] \quad (2)$$

first and then derive the following differential equation by defining $f(t) = e^{tA}e^{tB}$

$$\frac{df}{dt} = (A + B + t[A, B])f(t). \quad (3)$$

Find another solution of this differential equation.

Hint: Calculating the commutator $[e^{tA}, B]$ will be of great use.

ii) If the relations $[A, [A, B]] = [B, [A, B]] = 0$ do not hold, the formula can be extended to general cases. This extension is known as Zassenhaus formula and given by

$$e^{A+B} = e^A e^B e^{-\frac{1}{2}[A,B]} e^{-\frac{1}{6}(2[B,[B,A]]+[A,[B,A]])} e^{Z_3} e^{Z_4} \dots, \quad (4)$$

where Z_3, Z_4, \dots contain higher powers of the operators A and B . Use this formula to show the following relation for the Hamilton operator $H = H_0 + V$

$$e^{-i\epsilon H} = e^{-i\epsilon(H_0+V)} = e^{-i\epsilon V/2} e^{-i\epsilon H_0} e^{-i\epsilon V/2} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^3), \quad (5)$$

with small parameter $\epsilon > 0$.