

Computing the time dependent amplitude function

Now that we have $\bar{A}(q)$, how do we find the time dependence of $\bar{\Psi}(x,t)$? Since $\bar{A}(q)$ 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 $\bar{\mathbf{E}}$, indexed by \mathbf{q} .

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

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

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

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

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

Now, we have taken account for the time dependence by modifying our amplitude function (note the subscript \mathbf{t} to denote that this is $A(q)$ at a particular time \mathbf{t}). The last chore is to now compute the wave function in x-space from the modified amplitude function.