

# January 2012 Quantum 1

Sam Saskin

2017

Consider a two-level system with two orthogonal states  $|g\rangle$  and  $|e\rangle$ . It has time-dependent Hamiltonian:

$$H(t) = \hbar\omega |e\rangle\langle e| + V\cos(\omega t)(|e\rangle\langle g| + |g\rangle\langle e|)$$

Assume that the time-dependent term is small,  $\hbar\omega \gg V > 0$ , so that you may make the corresponding approximation. At time  $t = 0$  the state of the system is specified by the initial complex amplitudes  $c_{g_0}$  and  $c_{e_0}$ :

$$|\Psi(t=0)\rangle = c_{g_0} |g\rangle + c_{e_0} |e\rangle$$

What is the state of the system  $|\Psi(t)\rangle$  at all other times  $t$ ?

(We set  $\hbar = 1$ ) Since the time-dependent term is small we can treat the problem in time-dependent perturbation theory. We call the time-independent part of the Hamiltonian,  $H_0 = \omega |e\rangle\langle e|$  and the time-dependent part of the Hamiltonian  $V(t) = V\cos(\omega t)(|e\rangle\langle g| + |g\rangle\langle e|)$ . Now we want to find the following state:

$$|\Psi(t)\rangle = c_g(t) |g\rangle + c_e(t) |e\rangle$$

$c_g(t)$  and  $c_e(t)$  will be the transition amplitudes from the initial state to  $|g\rangle$  and  $|e\rangle$ , respectively, in time-dependent perturbation theory.

$$c_g(t) = \langle g| (1 - i \int_0^t V_I(t) dt) |\Psi_0\rangle$$

$$c_g(t) = c_{g_0} - i \int_0^t \langle g| V(t) (c_{g_0} |g\rangle + c_{e_0} e^{-i\omega t} |e\rangle)$$

Here we have used the fact that in the interaction picture our time-dependent potential looks like:

$$V_I(T) = e^{iH_0 t} V(t) e^{-iH_0 t}$$

Thus we now have that:

$$c_g(t) = c_{g_0} - i \frac{V c_{e_0}}{2} \int_0^t (e^{i\omega t} + e^{-i\omega t}) e^{i\omega t} dt$$

$$c_g(t) = c_{g_0} - i \frac{V c_{e_0}}{2} \left( t - \frac{1}{2i\omega} e^{-2i\omega t} \right)$$

Similarly we can find that:

$$c_e(t) = c_{e_0} - i \frac{V c_{g_0}}{2} \left( t + \frac{1}{2i\omega} e^{2i\omega t} \right)$$