



PHYS3130

Quantum Mechanics and Atomic Physics

Session 1, Weekday attendance, North Ryde 2020

Department of Physics and Astronomy

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

(PHYS201 or PHYS2010) and (PHYS202 or PHYS2020) and (MATH235 or MATH2010)

Corequisites

PHYS301 or PHYS3010

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit deals with the fascinating world of quantum physics, providing a modern introduction to quantum mechanics and its applications. As well as being the theory that underlies most of modern physics, it also provides a viewpoint about the nature of the physical world that is completely at odds with our everyday intuition. The material covered here provides an introduction to the basic physical principles of quantum mechanics and the mathematical language that is needed to describe the new physics. We will study the three most important exactly-solvable models in quantum theory: the potential well, harmonic oscillator, and hydrogen atom. The quantum mechanics of angular momentum is also introduced and explored. These principles are developed further in the context of atomic physics in the second half of the unit, demonstrating the origin of the unique energy-level diagrams for each atom in the periodic table, consequently the unique spectrum of frequencies of electromagnetic radiation that can be emitted and/or absorbed. Physics of multi-electron systems, origins of the periodic properties of the elements, and interactions with electromagnetic fields are explored, as well as current topics like laser manipulation of atoms, optical lattices, and cold atomic gases.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: use the mathematical formalism of quantum mechanics in terms of state vectors, operators and their vector/matrix representations.

ULO2: demonstrate knowledge of von Neumann measurements in quantum mechanics.

ULO3: solve the matrix form of the Schrodinger equation.

ULO4: identify and use standard solutions of Schrodinger wave equation [free, infinite well, step, harmonic oscillator, Coulomb potential].

ULO5: demonstrate basic proficiency with formalism of orbital angular momentum and spin in analysis of various physical problems.

ULO6: derive the excited states of simple atoms.

ULO7: discuss the basic rules of the atomic transitions and physical principles behind them, and apply them in spectral analysis.

Assessment Tasks

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Assessment details are no longer provided here as a result of changes due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Students should consult [iLearn](#) for revised unit information.

[Find out more about the Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and potential impacts on staff and students](#)

General Assessment Information

Assignments

Assignments will be set and marked for assessment purposes and issued approximately once a week. The best four assignments [unless agreed otherwise] in each half of the course (i.e. 4+4) will be selected to contribute to the assignment grade. At least 11 assignments will be issued. Given the teaching constraints the assignments will often contain more problems than the will have to be submitted. Solutions will be provided to all of them

Informal group discussion regarding the assignment problems is encouraged, but students should present their own solutions and should explicitly acknowledge those they have worked with on the assignment. Do not hesitate to seek help if you are having difficulties with the assignment problems.

Extension Requests: Given the importance we place on assignments as a key aid to learning we expect assignments to be submitted on time. In turn, we undertake to return your assignments (provided they were submitted on time), marked and with feedback within two

weeks of their due date. This will allow us to provide you feedback in time to aid your ongoing learning through the course.

If for any reason a student is unable to submit an assignment by the due date, the student should contact the relevant staff member as soon as possible, explain the situation, and request an extension. Extensions will only be considered if requested with valid reasons **prior to the due date**. Delay of the submission delays publication of the solutions

Mid-session examination

There will be two 50 minute mid-session exams. There is some flexibility in setting the test times and the selected material. Please use the iLearn discussion forum to make suggestions for alternative times. Weight of each test is 15%.

Students can prepare their own hand written summary notes to take into the test. The summary notes and the test script will be collected and assessed to ensure the notes were independently prepared. Summary notes are limited to one A4 sheet (both sides).

End-of-session examination

There will be a 3 hour end-of-session exam to be held in the University Examination Period.

This will be a closed-book examination. All the necessary physical and mathematical formulas will be provided. You should have a scientific calculator for use during the final examination. Note that calculators with text retrieval are not permitted for the final examination.

You are expected to present yourself for the final examination at the time and place designated in the University examination timetable (<https://iexams.mq.edu.au/timetable>). The timetable will be available in draft form approximately eight weeks before the commencement of examinations and in final form approximately four weeks before the commencement of examinations.

If you receive **special consideration** for the final exam, a supplementary exam will be scheduled during the supplementary exam period. By making a special consideration application for the final exam you are declaring yourself available for a resit during the supplementary examination period and will not be eligible for a second special consideration approval based on pre-existing commitments. Please ensure you are familiar with the policy prior to submitting an application. Approved applicants will receive an individual notification one week prior to the exam with the exact date and time of their supplementary examination.

Delivery and Resources

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Any references to on-campus delivery below may no longer be relevant due to COVID-19.

Please check here for updated delivery information: https://ask.mq.edu.au/account/pub/display/unit_status

A recommended textbook is:

- "Introduction to Quantum Mechanics" by David Griffiths (any edition)

Knowledge of the basic elements of classical analytical mechanics (particularly the Hamiltonian formalism) is helpful, but not mandatory. A lecture notes will be posted on iLearn.

A recommended textbook for atomic physics will be announced during semester.

Supplementary textbook on quantum mechanics and atomic physics:

- "Introductory Quantum Mechanics" by R. L. Liboff (any edition)

Lecture materials, additional reading and assignments will be posted to iLearn.

Classes will be mixed lectures and tutorials.

Unit Schedule

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

The unit schedule/topics and any references to on-campus delivery below may no longer be relevant due to COVID-19. Please consult [iLearn](#) for latest details, and check here for updated delivery information: https://ask.mq.edu.au/account/pub/display/unit_status

The schedule of topics to be covered is as follows:

- State vectors
- Linear operators
- Measurements
- Time evolution, tensor products
- The Schrodinger equation, free particles and infinite wells
- Harmonic oscillator
- Angular momentum
- Hydrogen atom: Schrodinger equation
- Spin
- Addition of angular momentum
- Approximated solutions and perturbation theory
- Optical transitions in hydrogen atoms
- Multi-electron atoms: helium
- Fine structure, chemical properties, optical transitions
- External fields, Zeeman effect

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-centr) (<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-centr>)

al). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central](http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central>).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/getting-started/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Getting help with your assignment](#)
- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.