# Quantum mechanics in multiply-connected spaces

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## 3.3 Quantum mechanics in multiply connected spaces

### 3.3.1 Introduction

Quantum mechanics conventionally deals with the evolution of a particle in a simply connected configuration space, whose topology is Euclidean $R^n$. The Euclidean space $R^n$ has a simple topology, in the sense that paths in this space are contractible to a point, and so the fundamental homotopy group is trivial, i.e. $\pi_1(R^n) \cong \{0\}$. In Appendix D we outline the theory of homotopy groups. However, novel features can arise from configuration spaces that exhibit a nontrivial topology (Isham (1978), Avis and Isham (1978)). In a multiply connected space, the nature of the Schrödinger wave function may depend on the topological structure of the configuration space. On the other hand, multiply connected configurational spaces have also been shown to play an important role in field theory and particle physics, where stable solutions to field equations can exist for appropriate topologies of the configuration spaces (Balachandran *et al.* (1991), Ryder (1985)).

In this section we analyse quantum mechanics in multiply connected configuration spaces, emphasising the possible influences of the space topology on the nature of wavefunctions in the quantum theory. It is assumed that a physical system is described by a complex wavefunction $\Psi$ defined on a configuration space $M$, and the time evolution of the system is determined by the Schrödinger equation

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial t} = H\Psi, \tag{3.27}$$

where $H$ is the Hamiltonian of the system. According to the orthodox interpretation of the wavefunction in quantum mechanics, all of the physical information is contained in the square of the modulus of the wavefunction, therefore, all complex

wavefunctions that differ from one another by a phase can be used to describe the same quantum state of the physical system. Consequently, the absolute phase is regarded as unobservable and the phase of a wavefunction can be defined globally as a U(1)-valued function in the configuration space $M$, when $M$ is simply connected. In terms of a fiber bundle structure, this result can be seen as an admission of a global section of a principal fibre bundle, since nonrelativistic quantum mechanics can be associated with the trivial complex line bundle $M \times C$ and the wavefunction is simply a global section of the line bundle. The quantum state of a physical system is regarded as an equivalence class $\{e^{i\alpha}\Psi\}$ of normalised wave functions defined on the principal U(1)-bundle $M \times S^1$ on $M$. Because physical observables correspond only to the squared modulus of a wave function, wave functions on the U(1)-bundle must satisfy the condition $\Psi(\mathbf{x}, e^{i(\alpha+\beta)}) = \Psi(\mathbf{x}, e^{i\alpha})e^{i\beta}$ (Balachandran *et al.* (1991), Morandi (1992), Nakahara (1990)).

When the topological structure of the configuration space is nontrivial, ambiguities may arise when attempts are made to specify a value for the phase of a wavefunction for the whole configuration space. In this case the fiber bundle representation of the system is not trivial and so it does not admit a global section. However, since physical observables related to $\Psi^*\Psi$ are considered as functions on the configuration space, wavefunctions which are functions on a fiber bundle over the configuration space are allowed, provided they satisfy the requirement $\Psi(\mathbf{x}e^{i\alpha}) = \Psi(\mathbf{x})e^{in\alpha}$. This problem is related to the problem of formulating quantum mechanics on the universal covering space of a multiply connected configuration space (see Appendix D).

After giving a brief review of quantum mechanics on universal covering spaces, we focus on the application of these methods to quantum mechanics in multiply connected spaces. This provides a framework for discussing the nature of quantum observables such as angular momentum. In particular, when quantum mechanics in compactified Kaluza-Klein spaces is examined, it is shown that the system gives rise to an additional angular momentum quantum number which can take half-integer values, and therefore may be identified with the intrinsic spin of a particle.

### 3.3.2  Quantum mechanics on universal covering spaces

Consider the case where the configuration space $M$ of a physical system is a topological space which may be multiply connected, so that its fundamental homotopy group $\pi_1(M) \neq \{0\}$. If the space $M$ satisfies the conditions of arcwise and local connectedness, then it is possible to construct a covering space $\widetilde{M}$ which is simply connected with the property $\pi_1(\widetilde{M}) = \{0\}$. The covering space $\widetilde{M}$ is called a universal covering space of $M$. The space $\widetilde{M}$ is a bundle space over the space $M$ with a covering projection $\pi : \widetilde{M} \to M$ so that the homotopy group of the bundle space $\widetilde{M}$ is a factor group of the fundamental homotopy group of the base space $M$ (Steenrod (1951), Singer and Thorpe (1967), Hilton (1961)). It is always possible to formulate quantum mechanics on the universal covering space $\widetilde{M}$, because it is simply connected. However, how do we relate quantum mechanics on $\widetilde{M}$ to quantum mechanics on the multiply connected space $M$? This question does not have an obvious answer. Consider a single-valued wavefunction $\tilde{\psi}(\tilde{\mathbf{x}})$ on $\widetilde{M}$. If the point $\mathbf{x} = \pi(\tilde{\mathbf{x}})$ on $M$ is taken around a loop $\gamma$, then when the loop $\gamma$ lifts to a curve $\tilde{\gamma}$ in the space $\widetilde{M}$ with the initial point $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}$, the wave function $\tilde{\psi}$ will take its value at the end point $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}'$ of the curve $\tilde{\gamma}$, obtained from the point $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}$ by the action of the homotopy class $[\gamma]$; that is, $\tilde{\psi}(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}') = \tilde{\psi}([\gamma]\tilde{\mathbf{x}})$. Therefore, if quantum mechanics on the bundle space $\widetilde{M}$ is projectable to quantum mechanics on the multiply connected space $M$, in the sense that the squared modulus of the wave function $\tilde{\psi}$ on $\widetilde{M}$ depends only on $\mathbf{x} = \pi(\tilde{\mathbf{x}})$, then the wavefunction $\tilde{\psi}$ must satisfy the boundary conditions

$$\tilde{\psi}([\gamma]\tilde{\mathbf{x}}) = a([\gamma])\tilde{\psi}(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}) \tag{3.28}$$

$$|a([\gamma])| = 1 \tag{3.29}$$

for all $\tilde{\mathbf{x}} \in \widetilde{M}$ and for all homotopy classes $[\gamma] \in \pi_1(M)$. Furthermore, because the wavefunction $\tilde{\psi}$, is defined on a simply connected space, and is single-valued, the phase $a([\gamma])$ must also satisfy the condition $a([\gamma])a([\gamma']) = a([\gamma][\gamma'])$. The conditions imposed on the phase $a([\gamma])$ show that the map $a : \pi_1(M) \to U(1)$ defined by $[\gamma] \to a([\gamma])$ is a one-dimensional unitary representation of the fundamental homotopy group $\pi_1(M)$ (Morandi (1992)).

To illustrate how quantum mechanics on a multiply connected space can be

realised in physics, let us consider the simple example of the quantum dynamics of a particle moving in a one-dimensional lattice with a periodic potential $V(x + nd) = V(x)$. Assume the dynamics is governed by a Hamiltonian of the form $H = p^2/2m + V(x)$, where $m$ and $p$ are the mass and the momentum of the particle, respectively. The system in this case has translational symmetry, since the Hamiltonian is invariant under the transformation $x \rightarrow x + nd$. Let $T(n)$ be an operator that corresponds to this transformation in the vector space of physical states of the system; then it can be shown that the set $\{t_n(\theta) = e^{-in\theta}; \ -\pi \leq \theta < \pi\}$, forms a one-dimensional unitary representation of the translation group $T(n)$. It follows that the Schrödinger wavefunctions of the particle, known as Bloch functions, must satisfy the boundary condition $\psi_{nk}(x + d) = \exp(ikd)\psi_{nk}(x)$. Now if the endpoints of a unit cell of the lattice are identified, so that the cell has the topology of a circle $S^1$, the fundamental homotopy group is isomorphic to Z, in which the characters are $a([\gamma]) = \exp(ikd)$, $-\pi \leq kd < \pi$. Another illustration of quantum mechanics on multiply connected space is that of the hydrogen atom in the Euclidean plane $R^2$. The time-independent wavefunction for the system is written in the form $\psi(r, \phi) = \exp(im\phi)R(r)$, where $R(r)$ is the radial solution. When the configuration space of the system is simply connected, the wavefunction $\psi$ must be single-valued, which imposes the requirement that the quantum number $m$ must be an integer. However, if the electron of the system can not penetrate the nucleus, it is reasonable to reduce the space to $R^2 \setminus \{0\}$, which is now multiply connected, and whose fundamental homotopy group is isomorphic to $\pi_1(S^1)$. Therefore, the wavefunction on the original space $R^2$ is projectable even if the quantity $m$ takes half-integer values; in this case the wavefunction satisfies the boundary condition $\psi(r, [\gamma]\phi) = \psi(r, n\phi) = \exp(in\pi)\exp(im\phi)R(r)$ and hence $a([\gamma]) = a(n) = \exp(in\pi)$. This problem will be discussed in more detail shortly.

Having discussed the construction of a projectable quantum mechanics on a universal covering space $\widetilde{M}$ of a multiply connected configuration space $M$, there still remains the question: what is the nature of the wavefunction on $M$? The universal covering space $\widetilde{M}$ is the union of fundamental domains each of which is isomorphic to the configuration space $M$. If quantum mechanics on the universal

covering space $\widetilde{M}$ is restricted to a particular domain, then the wavefunction $\tilde{\psi}$ can be projected down to a well-defined wavefunction $\psi$ on the space $M$. However, since a point $\mathbf{x} \in M$ corresponds to many different points $\tilde{\mathbf{x}} = \pi^{-1}(\mathbf{x}) \in \widetilde{M}$, which are connected by the action of the fundamental homotopy group $\pi_1(M)$ on $\widetilde{M}$, the projection of the wave function $\tilde{\psi}$ on $\widetilde{M}$ to a wave function $\psi$ on $M$ will make the wavefunction $\psi$ multivalued. The construction of a projectable quantum mechanics on universal covering spaces requires that the multiple valuedness of a wavefunction on the original configuration space (obtained by the projection of a wave function on a universal covering space) is not arbitrary, but is limited to multiplication by characters of the fundamental homotopy group of the original configuration space (Morandi (1992), Balachandran *et al.* (1991)).

### 3.3.3 On the quantisation of angular momentum

It was mentioned in Sec. 3.3.2 that the quantum mechanics of a hydrogen atom in the configuration space $\mathrm{R}^2 \setminus \{0\}$ can be considered in terms of a multiply connected space, whose fundamental homotopy group is isomorphic to $\pi_1(S^1)$. In this case, wavefunctions on the space $\mathrm{R}^2 \setminus \{0\}$ are allowed to be multivalued. We now examine the relationship between the multiple valuedness of the wavefunction and the quantisation of angular momentum (Ho (1994)).

It is known that there are two alternative methods for quantisation of a physical system; namely, canonical quantization and the Feynman path integral formulation. While the more familiar canonical quantization replaces classical observables by operators which obey Heisenberg commutation relations, and hence the mathematics one invokes is that of operators in Hilbert space, the path integral formulation of quantum mechanics is based on the concept of the transition amplitude to which all possible paths contribute (Feynman (1948), Feynman and Hibbs (1965), Dittrich and Reuter (1992)). However, although the Feynman formulation is closely related to the canonical equations of quantum mechanics, there remains some profound differences between the two methods. Because the method of canonical quantization uses the Heisenberg uncertainty principle, it is not possible to define a path, in the classical sense, for a particle moving from one place to another in space. On

the other hand, the Feynman path integral method of quantization does not exclude the notion of classical paths of a particle; however, the dynamics of the particle in a classical sense are radically modified by introducing a complex-valued transition amplitude. In particular one is allowed to consider all possible paths in different frames of reference in different configurational spaces. This possibility allows us to discuss coordinate transformations in quantum mechanics and to use the topological structure of the configuration space of a physical system to determine the quantization of the angular momentum in multiply connected spaces.

In quantum mechanics the problem of multivalued eigenfunctions of angular momentum may be argued to appear only because one changes from Cartesian coordinates to polar coordinates which are singular at the coordinate origin. However, the single-valuedness of a wavefunction, such as $\psi = \exp(im\phi)$, that satisfies the equation $L_z\psi = m\hbar\psi$, results from the boundary condition. This may be regarded as less natural than other requirements imposed on the wavefunction, such as the requirement of square integrability. Furthermore, it can also be argued that multivalued wavefunctions cannot be excluded *a priori* because well-defined functions should be associated only with physical observables, such as expectation values of operators in the vector space of physical states (Merzbacher (1962), Blatt and Weisskopf (1952)). We will show that the problem is actually related to quantum mechanics in multiply connected spaces, and within the present physical interpretation of quantum mechanics, the use of multivalued wavefunctions is allowed provided the configuration space is not simply connected. In this section we investigate in detail the particular case of a hydrogen-like atom from the point of view of an observer who describes the atom as a planar physical system. Here the assumption is made that the electron can never penetrate the nucleus, so that the configuration space can be considered multiply connected and the use of multivalued wavefunctions is permitted. In such situations the single-valuedness condition is no longer an obvious requirement for limiting the angular momentum quantum number to integer values. It is shown that the eigenvalues of angular momentum must be half-integer if an observer obtains the same energy spectrum as that of an observer who views the atom in three dimensional space. Later we will discuss quantum mechanics in higher-dimensional

multiply connected spaces of the Kaluza-Klein type: $R^{N-1} \times S^1$, whose universal covering space is the Euclidean space $R^N$. This requires the formulation of the quantum mechanics of a generalised hydrogen atom in an $N$-dimensional Euclidean space.

The generalised hydrogen-like atom consisting of a single electron of charge $-e$ and a nucleus of charge $Ze$ is described by the eigenvalue equation (Louck (1960), Hagen (1995), Nieto (1979))

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu}\nabla_N^2\psi(\mathbf{r}) - \frac{Ze^2}{r}\psi(\mathbf{r}) = E\psi(\mathbf{r}), \qquad (3.30)$$

where $\mu$ is the reduced mass, $r^2 = g_{\mu\nu}x^\mu x^\nu$ and $\nabla_N^2 = g^{\mu\nu}\partial_\mu\partial_\nu$, where $g_{\mu\nu}$ is the $N$-dimensional Euclidean metric. In an $N$-dimensional Euclidean space, spherical polar coordinates are defined in terms of the coordinates $\theta_i$, $1 \leq i \leq N-1$, i.e.

$$
\begin{aligned}
x_1 &= r\cos\theta_1 \prod_{i=2}^{N-1} \sin\theta_i \\
x_2 &= r \prod_{i=1}^{N-1} \sin\theta_i \\
x_i &= r\cos\theta_{i-1} \prod_{j=i}^{N-1} \sin\theta_j \quad i = 3, ..., N
\end{aligned}
\qquad (3.31)
$$

where the range of the variables is $0 \leq r < \infty$, $0 \leq \theta_1 \leq 2\pi$ and $0 \leq \theta_i \leq \pi$ for $i = 2, ..., N-1$. It is straightforward to verify that the Laplacian $\nabla_N^2$ expressed in terms of the $N$- dimensional polar coordinates takes the form

$$\nabla_N^2 = \frac{1}{r^{N-1}}\frac{\partial}{\partial r}r^{N-1}\frac{\partial}{\partial r} - \frac{L_{N-1}^2}{\hbar^2 r^2}, \qquad (3.32)$$

where the generalised angular momentum operators are defined by the recursion relation

$$L_{i-1}^2 = -\hbar^2\left\{\frac{1}{\sin^{i-2}\theta_{i-1}}\frac{\partial}{\partial\theta_{i-1}}\sin^{i-2}\theta_{i-1}\frac{\partial}{\partial\theta_{i-1}} - \frac{L_{i-2}^2}{\hbar^2\sin^2\theta_{i-1}}\right\}. \qquad (3.33)$$

The generalised spherical harmonics $Y(l_{N-1}, ..., l_1)$ are defined as the simultaneous eigenfunctions of the set of operators $\{L_k^2\}$

$$L_k^2 Y(l_{N-1}, ..., l_1) = l_k(l_k + k - 1)\hbar^2 Y(l_{N-1}, ..., l_1), \qquad (3.34)$$

where $1 \leq k \leq N-1$. Imposing the requirement of single-valuedness, the quantum number $l_i$ with $1 \leq i \leq N-1$ must be an integer. Integer values of the

quantum number $l$ are also required for consistency of the representation of the angular momentum group (Merzbacher (1962), Landau and Lifshitz (1975)). When the eigenfunctions of the generalised hydrogen atom are written as

$$\psi_{nl}(l, l_{N-2}, ..., l_1) = R_{nl} Y(l, l_{N-2}, ..., l_1), \qquad (3.35)$$

with $l = l_{N-1}$, then the radial equation for the function $R_{nl}$, for the case of bound states, with $E < 0$, becomes

$$\frac{d^2 R_{nl}}{d\rho^2} + \frac{N-1}{\rho} \frac{dR_{nl}}{d\rho} - \left[ \frac{l(l+N-2)}{\rho^2} + \frac{\lambda}{\rho} - \frac{1}{4} \right] R_{nl} = 0, \qquad (3.36)$$

where $\rho$ and $\lambda$ are defined by

$$\rho = \left[ \frac{8\mu(-E)}{\hbar^2} \right]^{1/2} r, \qquad \lambda = \left[ \frac{Z^2 e^4 \mu}{2\hbar^2(-E)} \right]^{1/2}. \qquad (3.37)$$

We seek solutions for $R_{nl}$ of the form

$$R_{nl} = \exp(-\rho/2)\rho^l S(\rho). \qquad (3.38)$$

By substitution into the equation for $R_{nl}$ the following differential equation for $S(\rho)$ is obtained, i.e.

$$\frac{d^2 S}{d\rho^2} + \left( \frac{2l+N-1}{\rho} - 1 \right) \frac{dS}{d\rho} + \frac{\lambda - (N-1)/2 - l}{\rho} S = 0. \qquad (3.39)$$

This equation can be solved using a series expansion for $S(\rho)$

$$S(\rho) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n \rho^n, \qquad (3.40)$$

with the coefficients $a_n$ satisfying the recursion relation

$$a_{n+1} = \frac{n + l + (N-1)/2 - \lambda}{(n+1)(n+2l+N-1)} a_n. \qquad (3.41)$$

The bound state energy spectrum is given by

$$E_n = -\frac{Ze^4 \mu}{2\hbar^2} \frac{1}{[n + l + (N-1)/2]^2}. \qquad (3.42)$$

This result shows that for spaces of odd dimension the quantum number $l$ must be an integer for the energy $E_n$ to have the same form as that of the Bohr model. On the other hand, for spaces of even dimension, the Bohr spectrum is obtained only when

the quantum number $l$ is half-integer. However, in quantum mechanics the quantum number $l$ must always be an integer due to the requirement of single-valuedness of the Schrödinger wavefunction, regardless of the dimension of the configuration space of a physical system. We now discuss this problem from the perspective of quantum mechanics on a multiply connected space, showing the important relationship between the topology of the system and the multiple connectedness of the configuration space of the atom. In a two-dimensional space, the Schrödinger equation in planar polar coordinates takes the form

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu}\left[\frac{1}{r}\frac{\partial}{\partial r}\left(r\frac{\partial}{\partial r}\right)+\frac{1}{r^2}\frac{\partial^2}{\partial\phi^2}\right]\psi(r,\phi)-\frac{Ze^2}{r}\psi(r,\phi)=E\psi(r,\phi),\qquad(3.43)$$

where it is assumed that the Coulomb potential has the $r^{-1}$ form. This equation admits solutions of the form $\psi(r,\phi)=R(r)\exp(im\phi)$ where $m$ is identified with the angular momentum of the system. We normally require the angular momentum quantum number $m$ to take integer values so that the single-valuedness condition is satisfied. However, the requirement that $m$ be integer is not compatible with the assumption that an observer in a two-dimensional space must obtain an energy spectrum identical to the Bohr model, because the energy spectrum in this case can be written explicitly as

$$E=-\frac{Z^2e^4\mu}{2\hbar^2(n+m+\frac{1}{2})^2}.\qquad(3.44)$$

Hence, if the hydrogen-like atom is viewed as a two dimensional physical system, and if the energy is observed to have the same spectrum as that of the Bohr model then the angular momentum $m$ must take half-integer values. These half-integer values are allowed provided the configuration space is not simply connected. This will be the case for a hydrogen-like atom viewed as a planar system, in which the atomic electron cannot penetrate the nucleus. In this situation the single-valuedness condition is no longer a sufficient requirement to ensure that the angular momentum adopts integer values. However, integer values for the angular momentum $m$ can be retained if we add to the Coulomb potential a quantity $-\left(\hbar\sqrt{E/2\mu}\right)/r$, when the hydrogen-like atom is viewed as a two-dimensional physical system.

In the above example it is seen that the topological structure of a configuration space can determine the quantum nature of an observable. This result is not

unexpected in quantum mechanics. If the electron in a hydrogen-like atom is constrained to move in a plane, then the orbital angular momentum of the electron must take half-integer values in order to reproduce the same energy spectrum as the Bohr model. As a consequence, it may be possible to invoke topological arguments to explain the Stern-Gerlach experiment, without the necessity of introducing spin into non-relativistic quantum theory in an *ad hoc* manner. In the following sections we explore these issues in more detail.

## 3.4  Quantum mechanics in compactified Kaluza-Klein spaces

The topological structure of a physical system can determine the nature of an observable of a quantum system, such as angular momentum. In the case of a hydrogen-like atom, the nontrivial topological structure of the system can only be revealed when the electron is constrained to move in a plane, so that the fundamental homotopy group, $\pi_1(R^2 \setminus \{0\})$, is nontrivial. This results in the angular momentum adopting half-integer values, since the wavefunction in this case is allowed to be multi-valued. However, how do we incorporate topological constraints into the dynamics of the electron in three-dimensional space? One possible approach is to use path integral methods in multiply connected spaces, where spin can be incorporated by specifying an appropriate space, e.g. SO(3). In this manner, continuous classical mechanics, when defined and quantised, can provide a framework for incorporating spin (Schulman (1968), Schulman (1981)). However, in the present work we require that the topological description should only involve space-time structures. Consider the quantum mechanics of a generalised $N$-dimensional hydrogen atom whose bound state spectrum is given by the relation (3.42), i.e., $E_n = -\mu e^4/(2\hbar^2[n + l + (N - 1)/2]^2)$. It is noted that for spaces of even dimensions the Bohr energy spectrum is retained only if the angular momentum adopts half-integer values. This energy spectrum is derived for a hydrogen atom in the simply connected $N$-dimensional Euclidean space $R^N$ whose fundamental homotopy group is trivial, i.e. $\pi_1(R^N) \cong \{0\}$. In the simply connected Euclidean·space $\mathrm{R}^N$, the wavefunction must be single-valued, and, as a consequence, the angular momentum must

be integer. However, for quantum mechanics in multiply connected spaces, the Euclidean space $R^N$ may be considered as a universal covering space of some multiply connected space in which a wavefunction of the Schrödinger equation can be multivalued. It is known that the Euclidean space $R^N$ is a universal covering space of the space $R^{N-1} \times S^1$ (Singer and Thorpe (1967), Nakahara (1990)). The space $R^{N-1} \times S^1$ has a nontrivial topological structure because its fundamental homotopy group is isomorphic to Z, i.e. $\pi_1(R^{N-1} \times S^1) \cong \pi_1(R^{N-1}) \oplus \pi_1(S^1) \cong \{0\} \oplus Z \cong Z$. The multiply connected space $R^{N-1} \times S^1$ has the structure of a Kaluza-Klein space, because, according to the modern perspective (see, e.g., Maheshwari (1989)), a Kaluza-Klein space is not considered as an $M^N$ manifold whose symmetries are the $N$-dimensional Poincaré symmetries, but rather a compactified manifold of the form $M^4 \times S^d$. Here $M^4$ is a four-dimensional Minkowski spacetime and $S^d$ is some compact manifold whose size is much smaller than any measurable length scale (Kaluza (1984), Maheshwari (1989)). In the following sections we consider nonrelativistic quantum mechanics in a compactified Kaluza-Klein space, $R^{N-1} \times S^1$, consisting of the direct product of an $(N-1)$-dimensional Euclidean space $R^{N-1}$ with the compact circle $S^1$. We assume quantum mechanics is valid in these compactified spaces. The introduction of the compact circle makes it possible to incorporate spin into the nonrelativistic Schrödinger wave equation. Since the topological structure of the configuration space of a physical system depends on the dimension of the space, we discuss two, three and four-dimensional compactified spaces separately.

### 3.4.1 Quantum mechanics in 2-dimensional space $R^1 \times S^1$

Let us consider first the case of quantum mechanics in a two-dimensional Kaluza-Klein space $R^1 \times S^1$, where the compact space $S^1$ is a circle of radius $\rho$ and $R^1$ is a one-dimensional Euclidean space. This space has the form of a cylinder of radius $\rho$ embedded in the three-dimensional Euclidean space $R^3$. The time-independent Schrödinger wave equation for a free particle moving in this space can be written as

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu} \left( \frac{1}{\rho^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \phi^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} \right) \psi(z, \phi) = E \psi(z, \phi). \qquad (3.45)$$

When the wavefunction is written in the separable form $\psi(z, \phi) = Z(z)\Phi(\phi)$, the Schrödinger equation (3.45) reduces to the following system of differential equations

$$\frac{d^2\Phi}{d\phi^2} + s^2\Phi = 0, \qquad (3.46)$$

$$\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu}\frac{d^2Z}{dz^2} + \left(E - \frac{\hbar^2 s^2}{2\mu\rho^2}\right)Z = 0, \qquad (3.47)$$

where the quantity $s$ is identified with the angular momentum quantum number of the system. The solution for the function $\Phi$ is of the form $\Phi(\phi) = \exp(is\phi)$. In order to obtain nontrivial solutions, the energy of the particle must satisfy the condition $E \geq s^2\hbar^2/2\mu\rho^2$. In this case, the solution is of the form $Z(z) = \exp(ikz)$, where $k$ is a real number defined via the relation

$$E = \left(k^2 + \frac{s^2}{\rho^2}\right)\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu}. \qquad (3.48)$$

It is interesting to note that free particles in this compactified Kaluza-Klein space posseses an angular momentum $s$ which can adopt half-integer values, since the space $R^1 \times S^1$ is multiply connected. This result allows an interpretation of the spin of a particle as a manifestation of the topological structure of spacetime at the quantum level. It is also noted that the ground state energy $E = s^2\hbar^2/2\mu\rho^2$ of a free particle in this space is very large if the size of the compact space $S^1$ is very small. However, if the size of the compact space is not directly measurable then this energy is unobservable because it is associated only with the compact space.

Now consider a particle moving under the influence of a Coulomb-like potential. Let us locate the nucleus of positive charge $e$ of a hydrogen-like atom at the origin of the space $R^1 \times S^1$; the distance from the nucleus to the atomic electron is $r = \sqrt{z^2 + (\rho\phi)^2}$. In this case the Schrödinger equation takes the form

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu}\left(\frac{1}{\rho^2}\frac{\partial^2}{\partial\phi^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2}\right)\psi - \frac{e^2}{r}\psi = E\psi. \qquad (3.49)$$

We assume that the size of the compact manifold is small, so that the condition $\rho \ll z$ can be imposed. This allows us to expand the Coulomb potential and use perturbation theory to calculate the first order correction to the energy spectrum. Consider the electron confined to the region $z > 0$, which is equivalent to a potential

of the form (Nieto (1979))

$$V(z) = \begin{cases} -\frac{e^2}{z} + \frac{e^2\rho^2\phi^2}{2r^3} - \frac{3e^2\rho^4\phi^4}{8r^5} + \dots & \text{for } z > 0 \\ +\infty & \text{for } z \leq 0 \end{cases} \tag{3.50}$$

The terms involving $\rho\phi$ are treated as a perturbation. We could choose an alternative potential of the form $V(z) = -e^2/|z| + e^2\rho^2\phi^2/2|z|^3 - \dots$. With this potential, however, the system would become doubly degenerate, although it would yield the same energy spectrum. The unperturbed Schrödinger equation takes the form

$$\frac{d^2\Phi}{d\phi^2} + s^2\Phi = 0, \tag{3.51}$$

$$\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu}\frac{d^2Z}{dz^2} + \left[\frac{e^2}{z} + \left(E - \frac{\hbar^2 s^2}{2\mu\rho^2}\right)\right]Z = 0. \tag{3.52}$$

The solution to Eq.(3.51) is $\Phi(\phi) = \exp(is\phi)$. On the other hand, Eq.(3.52) represents the time-independent Schrödinger equation for a one-dimensional hydrogen atom. The solution is given by

$$\psi_n(z) = \left[\frac{(n-1)!}{2n(n!)^3}\right]^{1/2} e^{-u/2} u L_n^1(u) \tag{3.53}$$

where $L_n^1(u)$ is the associated Laguerre polynomial and $u = 2\mu e^2 z/\hbar^2 n$. The bound state energy spectrum in this case is given by

$$E_n = -\frac{\mu e^4}{2\hbar^2}\frac{1}{n^2} + \frac{\hbar^2 s^2}{2\mu\rho^2}. \tag{3.54}$$

It is seen that the energy levels are shifted by the amount $\hbar^2 s^2/2\mu\rho^2$ which is identical to that predicted by Eq.(3.48), so the hydrogen atom in the compactified Kaluza-Klein space, $R^1 \times S^1$, has the same energy spectrum as that of a hydrogen atom in a one-dimensional Euclidean space. However, if the length of the compact manifold $S^1$ is measurable then the energy levels would be different, because in such a situation the condition $\rho \ll z$ could not be imposed. In that case it would be possible to detect the difference by a measurement of the frequency spectrum. Perturbative corrections to the energy spectrum can be calculated using the generating function for Laguerre polynomials. For example, the first order correction, $\Delta E_n$, using the term $e^2\rho^2\phi^2/(2z^3)$ as a perturbation, is given by

$$\Delta E_n = \int \psi_{ns}^*(\mathbf{r}) \left(\frac{e^2\rho^2\phi^2}{2z^3}\right) \psi_{ns}(\mathbf{r}) d\mathbf{r}$$

$$= \int_{z>0}^{\infty} \psi_n(z) \left( \frac{e^2 \rho^2 \phi^2}{2z^3} \right) \psi_n(z) dz \tag{3.55}$$

$$= \frac{\mu^2 e^6 \rho^2 \phi^2}{\hbar^4} \frac{(n-1)!}{n^3 (n!)^3} \int_{u>0}^{\infty} e^{-u} u^{-1} \left[ L_n^1(u) \right]^2 du.$$

In general, in order to evaluate integrals involving the associated Laguerre polynomials of the form $\int e^{-u} u^{\alpha} L_k^m(u) L_{k'}^{m'}(u) du$, the following generating function $G_m(u,$ is used (Sneddon (1980), Bransden and Joachan (1986)):

$$G_m(u,s) = \frac{(-s)^m \exp[-us/(1-s)]}{(1-s)^{m+1}} = \sum_{k=m}^{\infty} \frac{L_k^m(u)}{k!} s^k. \tag{3.56}$$

By expressing the integral $G(m, m', s, t) = \int e^{-u} u^{\alpha} G_m(u,s) G_{m'}(u,t) du$ as

$$\begin{aligned}
G(m, m', s, t) &= \sum_{k=m}^{\infty} \sum_{k'=m'}^{\infty} \frac{s^k t^{k'}}{k!(k')!} \int e^{-u} u^{\alpha} L_k^m(u) L_{k'}^{m'}(u) du \\
&= \int e^{-u} u^{\alpha} \frac{(-s)^m \exp[-us/(1-s)]}{(1-s)^{m+1}} \frac{(-t)^{m'} \exp[-ut/(1-t)]}{(1-t)^{m'+1}} du \\
&= \frac{(-1)^{m+m'} s^m t^{m'}}{(1-s)^{m+1}(1-t)^{m'+1}} \int \exp \left( -\frac{u(1-st)}{(1-s)(1-t)} \right) u^{\alpha} du, \quad (3.57)
\end{aligned}$$

it follows that the integral $\int e^{-u} u^{\alpha} L_k^m(u) L_{k'}^{m'}(u) du$ is equal to $k!(k')!$ times the coefficient of $s^k t^{k'}$ in the binomial series expansion of the quantity $\frac{(-1)^{m+m'} s^m t^{m'}}{(1-s)^{m-\alpha}(1-t)^{m-\alpha}} \frac{\Gamma(\alpha+1)}{(1-st)^{\alpha+1}}$.

Applying the above method to the present problem with the Laguerre polynomial $L_n^1(u)$ and the generating function $-t \exp \left( -\frac{ut}{1-t} \right) = (1-t)^2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{L_n^1(u)}{n!} t^n$, the energy correction $\Delta E_n$ is found to be

$$\Delta E_n = \frac{\mu^2 e^6 \rho^2 \phi^2}{\hbar^4 n^2} Ei(u) \tag{3.58}$$

where $Ei(u)$ is the exponential-integral defined by

$$Ei(u) = \int_{u>0}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-y}}{y} dy. \tag{3.59}$$

This result shows that perturbative corrections to the unperturbed energy spectrum can only be carried out for $z > 0$. For $z \gg \rho$ the correction term is negligible. Higher order perturbative terms can also be calculated and in general they depend on the quantum number $n$ and integrals of the form $\int_{u>0}^{\infty} e^{-y} y^{-2k-1} dy$, where $k = 1, 2, \ldots$.

### 3.4.2 Quantum mechanics in 3-dimensional space $R^2 \times S^1$

The time-independent Schrödinger equation for a free particle in a three-dimensional compactified Kaluza-Klein space $R^2 \times S^1$ can be written in the form

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu} \left( \nabla^2 + \frac{1}{\rho^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \Omega^2} \right) \psi = E\psi, \qquad (3.60)$$

where $\rho$ is the radius of the compact circle $S^1$ parametrised by the angle $\Omega$, and $\nabla^2$ is the Laplacian in two-dimensional Euclidean space. If the two-dimensional wavefunction $\psi$ is written in the form $\psi = \omega(\Omega)\Phi(\phi)\mathcal{R}(r)$, where $(r, \phi)$ are the polar coordinates in the space $\mathrm{R}^2$, then the above Schrödinger equation reduces to the system of equations

$$\frac{d^2\omega}{d\Omega^2} + s^2\omega = 0, \qquad (3.61)$$

$$\frac{d^2\Phi}{d\phi^2} + m^2\Phi = 0, \qquad (3.62)$$

$$\frac{d^2\mathcal{R}}{dr^2} + \frac{1}{r}\frac{d\mathcal{R}}{dr} - \frac{m^2}{r^2}\mathcal{R} + \frac{2\mu}{\hbar^2} \left( E - \frac{\hbar^2 s^2}{2\mu\rho^2} \right) \mathcal{R} = 0. \qquad (3.63)$$

It is seen that a free particle moving in a three-dimensional compactified Kaluza-Klein space, $R^2 \times S^1$, possesses an angular momentum $s$ associated with the third compactified dimension, in addition to the angular momentum associated with the two-dimensional Euclidean space. An important feature of this extra angular momentum is that it can take on half-integer values, because the configuration space is multiply connected and so multivalued wavefunctions are allowed. On the other hand, although the solution for the function $\Phi$ is of the form $\Phi(\phi) = \exp(im\phi)$, the angular momentum $m$ can only adopt integer values, since in this case the quantity $m$ is associated with the simply connected Euclidean space $\mathrm{R}^2$. However, for the quantum dynamics of an electron in a hydrogen atom whose configuration space is $(R \setminus \{0\}) \times S^1$, the angular momentum $m$ can have half-integer values. The Schrödinger equation for the stationary states of an hydrogen atom in a three-dimensional compactified Kaluza-Klein space, $R^2 \times S^1$, is

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu} \left( \nabla^2 + \frac{1}{\rho^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \Omega^2} \right) \psi - \frac{e^2}{r_3}\psi = E\psi \qquad . \qquad (3.64)$$

where $r_3 = \sqrt{r^2 + \rho^2\Omega^2}$, with $r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$. As in the case of a hydrogen atom in a two-dimensional compactified Kaluza-Klein space, $R^1 \times S^1$, the condition $\rho \ll r$

can be imposed, since the size of the compact space is assumed to be small. The potential can be expanded as a binomial series and terms (other than $e^2/r$) may be regarded as a perturbation. The energy corrections are calculated using the earlier method for evaluating integrals involving the Laguerre polynomial. The potential is expanded in a binomial series as

$$V = \frac{e^2}{r}\left[1 - \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{\rho\Omega}{r}\right)^2 + \frac{3}{8}\left(\frac{\rho\Omega}{r}\right)^4 - \frac{5}{16}\left(\frac{\rho\Omega}{r}\right)^6 + ...\right]. \qquad (3.65)$$

If the terms that contain the quantity $\rho\Omega$ are treated as a perturbation, then the unperturbed Schrödinger equation for the hydrogen reduces to the system of differential equations

$$\frac{d^2\omega}{d\Omega^2} + s^2\omega = 0, \qquad (3.66)$$

$$\frac{d^2\Phi}{d\phi^2} + m^2\Phi = 0, \qquad (3.67)$$

$$\frac{d^2\mathcal{R}}{dr^2} + \frac{1}{r}\frac{d\mathcal{R}}{dr} - \frac{m^2}{r^2}\mathcal{R} + \frac{2\mu}{\hbar^2}\left(\frac{e^2}{r} + E - \frac{\hbar^2 s^2}{2\mu\rho^2}\right)\mathcal{R} = 0. \qquad (3.68)$$

The quantities $s$ and $m$ can take half-integer values, since both are associated with multiply connected spaces. The fundamental homotopy group of the space $R^2 \setminus \{0\}$ is isomorphic to $\pi_1(S^1)$, and the fundamental homotopy group of the space $(R^2 \setminus \{0\}) \times S^1$ is isomorphic to the fundamental homotopy group of the space $S^1 \times S^1$, which is just the two-dimensional torus $T^2$, i.e., $\pi_1((R^2 \setminus \{0\}) \times S^1) \cong \pi_1(S^1 \times S^1) \cong \pi_1(S^1) \oplus \pi_1(S^1) \cong Z \oplus Z$. Therefore, the fundamental group $\pi_1((R^2 \setminus \{0\}) \times S^1)$ has a unitary representation $a : \pi_1((R^2 \setminus \{0\} \times S^1) \to U(1) \times U(1)$ defined by the characters $a(n,m) = \exp(in\pi)\exp(im\pi)$, where $n, m \in Z$. It is seen that the use of multivalued wavefunctions are permitted in this case, since the multiple-valued wavefunctions are determined by the characters of the fundamental homotopy group of the configuration space.

In order to evaluate the correction to the energy spectrum we consider unperturbed solutions of the form

$$\psi_{nms} = \frac{\mu e^2}{\pi\hbar^2(n-1/2)}\left\{\frac{(n-m-1)!}{(2n-1)[(n+m-1)!]^3}\right\}^{1/2} e^{-u/2}u^m L_{n+m-1}^{2m}(u)e^{im\phi}e^{is\Omega}, \qquad (3.69)$$

where $u = 2\mu e^2 r/\hbar^2(n-1/2)$ and $L_{n+m-1}^{2m}$ are the associated Laguerre polynomials. With these solutions the quantum number $m$ takes on integer values $|m| \le n-1$,

with $n = 1, 2, \ldots$. This results from the definition of $u$ in terms of $n - 1/2$ instead of $n$ (Zaslow and Zandler (1967)). The unperturbed energy spectrum $E_n$ is given by

$$E_n = -\frac{\mu e^4}{2\hbar^2(n-1/2)^2} + \frac{\hbar^2 s^2}{2\mu\rho^2}. \tag{3.70}$$

The shift in the radial distribution makes the energy level lower in this case. The ground state energy level is four times that of the hydrogen atom in a three-dimensional space.

For the hydrogen atom in the three-dimensional compactified Kaluza-Klein space, the first order correction, $\Delta E_n$, is calculated be using the term $e^2\rho^2\Omega^2/2r^3$ as a perturbation and the generating function $(-s)^{2m}\exp[-us/(1-s)]/(1-s)^{2m+1}$ for the associated Laguerre polynomial $L_{n+m-1}^{2m}$, thus

$$
\begin{aligned}
\Delta E_n &= \int \psi_{nms}(r,\phi,\Omega)^* \left(\frac{e^2\rho^2\Omega^2}{2r^3}\right) \psi_{nms}(r,\phi,\Omega) r\,dr\,d\phi\,d\Omega \\
&= \frac{e^2\rho^2\Omega^2}{2} \left[\frac{2\mu e^2}{\hbar^2(n-1/2)}\right]^3 \left\{\frac{(n-m-1)!}{(2n-1)[(n+m-1)!]^3}\right\} \\
&\quad \times \int_0^\infty e^{-u} u^{2m-2} \left[L_{n+m-1}^{2m}(u)\right]^2 du \\
&= \frac{4\mu e^8 \rho^2 \Omega^2}{\hbar^6} \frac{1}{(n+m-1)!(2n-1/2)} C_{n-m-1},
\end{aligned} \tag{3.71}
$$

where the quantities $C_{n-m-1}$ are defined by

$$C_{n-m-1} = \sum_{k=0}^{n-m-1} \frac{(n-m-k)(2m-2+k)!}{k!}. \tag{3.72}$$

Higher order perturbation terms can also be calculated in a similar manner. The results, however, can be expressed in a general form using the relationship between the associated Laguerre polynomials and the confluent hypergeometric function $F(\alpha, \gamma, u)$ (Sneddon (1980))

$$L_n^m(u) = (-1)^m \frac{(n!)^2}{m!(n-m)!} F(-n+m, m+1, u). \tag{3.73}$$

The evaluation of integrals involving the radial hydrogenic wavefunctions requires the calculation of the integral

$$I_\nu = \int_0^\infty e^{-u} u^{\nu-1} [F(-n+m, m+1, u)]^2 du, \tag{3.74}$$

which is given by

$$I_\nu = \frac{(n-m)!\Gamma(\nu)}{(m+1)(m+2)...n} \tag{3.75}$$
$$\times \left\{ 1 + \sum_{k=0}^{n-m-1} \frac{(n-m)...(n-m-k)...(m-\nu-k+1)...(m-\nu+k+1)}{[(k+1)!]^2(m+1)(m+2)...(m+1+k)} \right\}.$$

Because these correction terms involve the compact dimension $\rho\Omega$, the above calculations show that the corrections only become meaningful when the compact dimension is measurable, because the correction $\Delta E_n$ given by the relation (3.71) is proportional to the square of the compact dimension $\rho\Omega$. When the size of the compact space is not measurable all energy corrections can be ignored and the hydrogen atom in this case behaves like a hydrogen atom in ordinary two-dimensional space $R^2$.

To generalise the previous discussion, let us consider quantum mechanics constructed on a multiply connected configuration space whose fundamental homotopy group is *nonabelian*; such an example is that of the planar hydrogen molecular ion $H_2^+$, with the assumption that the electron of the system can not penetrate either nucleus. The general multiply connected configuration space of this kind has the form $R^2 \setminus \{x_1, ..., x_n\}$, where $x_1, ..., x_n$ are $n$ distinct points in the plane $R^2$. The fundamental homotopy group $\pi_1$ of the space $R^2 \setminus \{x_1, ..., x_n\}$ is an infinite nonabelian group for $n \geq 2$. This is a free group of $n$ generators which can be constructed by the homotopy classes $[\gamma_i]$ of closed curves $\gamma_i$ each of which encloses the corresponding point $x_i$ but none of the remaining points. However, the generators are not determined uniquely, and when specified, they give rise to a representation of the group. Hence, the fundamental homotopy group of the configuration space of the hydrogen molecular ion $H_2^+$ has two generators which can be identified with two independent loops. It is known that all higher homotopy groups of $R^2 \setminus \{x_1, ..., x_n\}$ vanish (Hilton (1961), Singer and Thorpe (1967)). However, in the case where the atomic electron of the hydrogen molecular ion, $H_2^+$, is not constrained to the two-dimensional plane $R^2 \setminus \{x_1, ..., x_n\}$, all loops are contractible. In other words, the configuration space of the system is simply connected. In this case, the wave functions that describe the quantum electronic motion must be single-valued, and as a consequence, the angular momentum takes on integer values. Let the origin of the

polar coordinates be at the midpoint of two nuclei which are separated by a distance $d$, then the Schrödinger equation for the stationary states of the electronic motion is written as

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu}\nabla^2\psi - \left(\frac{e^2}{r_1} + \frac{e^2}{r_2} - \frac{e^2}{d}\right)\psi = E\psi, \qquad (3.76)$$

where $\mathbf{r_1}$ and $\mathbf{r_2}$ are the position vectors of the electron with respect to the two protons of the molecule. Using elliptic coordinates $(\xi, \eta, \psi)$, where $\phi$ is the azimuthal angle with the $z$-axis being the line joining the two protons, $\xi = (r_1 + r_2)/d$ and $\eta = (r_1 - r_2)/d$, the Laplacian operator expressed in terms of these coordinates takes the form (Bransden and Joachan (1986))

$$\nabla^2 = \frac{4}{d^2(\xi^2 - \eta^2)}\left\{\frac{\partial}{\partial\xi}(\xi^2 - 1)\frac{\partial}{\partial\xi} + \frac{\partial}{\partial\eta}(1 - \eta^2)\frac{\partial}{\partial\eta} + \frac{\xi^2 - \eta^2}{(\xi^2 - 1)(1 - \eta^2)}\frac{\partial^2}{\partial\phi^2}\right\}. \qquad (3.77)$$

When the wave function is written as a product $\psi = \Phi(\phi)F(\xi)G(\eta)$, the Schrödinger equation reduces to the system of equations, in atomic units $\mu = e = \hbar = a_0 = 1$,

$$\frac{d^2\Phi}{d\phi^2} + m^2\Phi = 0 \qquad (3.78)$$

$$\frac{d}{d\xi}(\xi^2 - 1)\frac{dF}{d\xi} + \left(\frac{d^2}{2}\left(E - \frac{1}{d}\right)\xi^2 + 2d\xi - \frac{m^2}{\xi^2 - 1} + \lambda\right)F(\xi) = 0 \qquad (3.79)$$

$$\frac{d}{d\eta}(1 - \eta^2)\frac{dG}{d\eta} - \left(\frac{d^2}{2}\left(E - \frac{1}{d}\right)\eta^2 + \frac{m^2}{1 - \eta^2} + \lambda\right)F(\xi) = 0, \qquad (3.80)$$

where $m$ and $\lambda$ are separation constants. The solution to Eq.(3.78) is of the form $\exp(im\phi)$, in which case $m$ must take integer values because the fundamental group of the configuration space vanishes.

### 3.4.3 Quantum mechanics in 4-dimensional space $R^3 \times S^1$

The time-independent Schrödinger equation for a free particle in a four-dimensional compactified Kaluza-Klein space $R^3 \times S^1$ can be written as

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu}\left(\nabla^2 + \frac{1}{\rho^2}\frac{\partial^2}{\partial\Omega^2}\right)\psi_4 = E\psi_4, \qquad (3.81)$$

where $\rho$ is the radius of the compact circle $S^1$ parametrised by the angle $\Omega$, and $\nabla^2$ is the Laplacian in three-dimensional Euclidean space. If the four-dimensional wavefunction $\psi_4$ is written in the form $\psi_4 = \omega(\Omega)\psi(r, \theta, \phi)$, where $(r, \theta, \phi)$ are the

three-dimensional spherical coordinates, then the Schrödinger equation (3.81) reduces to the system of equations

$$\frac{d^2\omega}{d\Omega^2} + s^2\omega = 0, \tag{3.82}$$

$$\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu}\nabla^2\psi + k^2\psi = 0, \tag{3.83}$$

where $k$ is defined by $E = \hbar^2 k^2/2\mu - \hbar^2 s^2/2\mu\rho^2$. As in the case of a free particle in three-dimensional compactified Kaluza-Klein space, $R^2 \times S^1$, the Schrödinger equation gives rise to an angular momentum $s$ which can take on half-integer values. The energy spectrum is also shifted by an amount $\hbar^2 s^2/2\mu\rho^2$. Therefore, free particle eigenfunctions in a four-dimensional compactified Kaluza-Klein space, $R^3 \times S^1$, can be classified by the continuous energy eigenvalues $E$ and three discrete indices $s, l$ and $m$, where the quantum numbers $l$ and $m$ result from the three-dimensional free-particle solutions $\psi_{Elm}(\mathbf{r}) = j_l(kr)Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi)$, where $j_l(kr)$ are the spherical Bessel functions and $Y_{lm}(\theta\phi)$ are the spherical harmonics (see, e.g., Bransden and Joanchain (1989)). Both of the quantum numbers $l$ and $m$ are integers since they are associated only with the simply connected Euclidean space $R^3$.

The Schrödinger equation for the stationary states of an hydrogen atom in a four-dimensional compactified Kaluza-Klein space, $R^3 \times S^1$, can be written in the form

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu}\left(\nabla^2 + \frac{1}{\rho^2}\frac{\partial^2}{\partial\Omega^2}\right)\psi_4 - \frac{e^2}{r_4}\psi_4 = E\psi_4, \tag{3.84}$$

where $r_4^2 = r^2 + \rho^2\Omega^2$ with $r^2 = x^2 + y^2 + z^2$. As in the case of a hydrogen atom in three-dimensional compactified Kaluza-Klein space, the condition $\rho \ll r$ is imposed, since the size of the compact space is assumed to be small, and the potential is expanded in a binomial series similar to Eq.(3.65). If the terms that contain the quantity $\rho\Omega$ are treated as a perturbation, then the unperturbed Schrödinger equation for the hydrogen atom reduces to the system of differential equations

$$\frac{d^2\omega}{d\Omega^2} + s^2\omega = 0, \tag{3.85}$$

$$\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu}\left(\nabla^2 + \frac{e^2}{r} + k^2\right)\psi = 0. \tag{3.86}$$

The behaviour of an hydrogen atom in four-dimensional compactified Kaluza-Klein space is therefore identical to that of a hydrogen atom in three-dimensional Euclidean space, if the ground state energy $\hbar^2 s^2/2\mu\rho^2$ is unobservable. However, unlike the situation in three-dimensional Euclidean space, the Schrödinger equation in four-dimensional compactified Kaluza-Klein space gives rise to an angular momentum that can take on half-integer values, which hints at a possible topological origin of the spin of the electron. It should be emphasised again that the half-integer values of the angular momentum $s$ are possible because the background space $R^3 \times S^1$ is multiply connected.

If the terms in the binomial series of the potential (see Eq.(3.65)), that contain the quantity $\rho\Omega$, are treated perturbatively then the correction to the energy spectrum can be calculated from

$$
\begin{aligned}
\left\langle r^k \right\rangle_{nlm} &= \int \psi_{nlm}^*(\mathbf{r}) r^k \psi_{nlm}(\mathbf{r}) d\mathbf{r} \\
&= \int_0^\infty r^{2+k} |R_{nl}(r)|^2 dr,
\end{aligned}
\tag{3.87}
$$

where the eigenfunctions $\psi_{nlm}(\mathbf{r})$ are written as a product of the normalised radial wavefunctions $R_{nl}$ and spherical harmonics $Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi)$. These are defined by

$$
R_{nl}(r) = -\left\{ \left(\frac{2}{na_0}\right)^3 \frac{(n-l-1)!}{2n[(n+l)!]^3} \right\}^{1/2} e^{-\rho/2} \rho^l L_{n+l}^{2l+1}(\rho)
\tag{3.88}
$$

$$
Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi) = (-1)^m \left[ \frac{(2l+1)(l-m)!}{4\pi(l+m)!} \right]^{1/2} P_l^m(\cos\theta) e^{im\phi},
\tag{3.89}
$$

where $L_{n+l}^{2l+1}(\rho)$ are the associated Laguerre polynomial and $P_l^m(\cos\theta)$ are the associated Legendre polynomial. The quantities $\rho$ and $a_0$ are defined by the relations

$$
\rho = \frac{2}{na_0} r, \qquad a_0 = \frac{4\pi\epsilon_0 \hbar^2}{\mu e^2}.
\tag{3.90}
$$

Here $a_0$ denotes the Bohr radius and $\mu$ is the reduced mass of the system.

Using a generating function for the associated Laguerre polynomials $L_q^p(\rho)$, or the confluent hypergeometric functions (3.73), it can be shown that

$$
\left\langle \frac{1}{r} \right\rangle_{nlm} = \frac{1}{a_0 n^2},
\tag{3.91}
$$

and

$$
\left\langle \frac{1}{r^2} \right\rangle_{nlm} = \frac{1}{a_0^2 n^3 (l+1/2)}.
\tag{3.92}
$$

For $k \leq -3$ the following recursion relation can be used

$$\frac{k+1}{n^2} \left\langle r^k \right\rangle - (2k+1)a_0 \left\langle r^{k-1} \right\rangle + \frac{k}{4}[(2l+1)^2 - k^2]a_0^2 \left\langle r^{k-2} \right\rangle = 0, \qquad (3.93)$$

with the condition $k > -2l - 1$ (Messiah (1961)). Applying this relation, the energy correction due to the term $e^2 \rho^2 \Omega^2 / 2r^3$ is found to be

$$\left\langle \frac{e^2 \rho^2 \Omega^2}{2} \frac{1}{r^3} \right\rangle_{nlm} = \frac{e^2 \rho^2 \Omega^2}{2a_0^3 n^3 l(l+1/2)(l+1)} \qquad (3.94)$$

As in the case of the hydrogen atom in lower dimensions, these corrections, due to the quantity $\rho\Omega$, only become significant when the compact dimension is measurable. The atom is indistinguishable from a hydrogen atom in ordinary three-dimensional Euclidean space when the size of the compact space is not measurable.

The analysis of quantum mechanics in multiply connected spaces shows that the topological structure of the configuration space effects quantum observables, such as angular momentum. Furthermore, the choice of a coordinate system also allows for alternative interpretations of quantum observables, as long as these are consistent with the mathematical formulation of quantum mechanics. For example, in Sec. 3.3.3 we noted that due to the symmetry of the Schrödinger equation, with respect to the rotation group, an observer who views the hydrogen atom as a planar physical system describes the angular momentum of the system differently from an observer who uses a three-dimensional model. This result poses an interesting question: does the choice of a coordinate system affect the description of physical observables? In order to illustrate that what we have been discussing are not exceptional cases, in the next section we present an analysis of coordinate systems in general relativity.

## Acknowledgments

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