

Q3 Consider a hydrogen atom whose electron is subjected to an additional three-dimensional spherically symmetric harmonic oscillator potential so that the total potential is $V(r) = -e^2/4\pi\epsilon_0 r + \frac{1}{2}kr^2$.

- Compute the first-order in k shift of the hydrogen *ground state* energy due to the potential V . Express your answer in terms of k and the Bohr radius a_0 .
- Find the first-order in k and leading order in n (the principal quantum number) shift for the *highly excited* states $n \gg 1$. Assume that the angular momentum quantum number l takes its maximum allowed value of l for each n .

In certain circumstances the diamagnetic effect of an extremely large magnetic field on the atom can be approximated by taking $V(r) = (e^2 B^2 / 8m_e) r^2$.

- Estimate (to nearest power of 10) the ratio R of magnetic to Coulomb energy of the ground state in a hydrogen atom on the surface of a neutron star where $B = 10^9$ T.
- For a laboratory magnetic field with $B = 10$ T estimate the n values (again taking the largest l) above which the diamagnetic energy is greater than the Coulomb energy.
- Does a high magnetic field tend to strip the electron from the proton or encourage them to merge to form a neutron? (Hint: You may use the properties of the one dimensional harmonic oscillator)

Useful Information:

$$\text{Bohr radius} \equiv a_0 = \frac{4\pi\epsilon_0 \hbar^2}{m_e e^2} = 5.3 \times 10^{-11} \text{ m}$$

$$\psi_{n,l,m}(r,\theta,\phi) = \langle r,\theta,\phi | n,l,m \rangle, \quad \psi_{1,0,0} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi a_0^3}} e^{-r/a_0}$$

$$\langle n,l,m | (r/a_0) | n,l,m \rangle = \frac{3n^2 - l(l+1)}{2}$$

$$\langle n,l,m | (r/a_0)^2 | n,l,m \rangle = \frac{n^2(5n^2 - 3l(l+1) + 1)}{2}$$