

We compute the expectation value of an arbitrary single-particle potential for a system in a Slater determinant state.

The single-particle potential is given by $V_{tot}(\vec{x}_1, \dots, \vec{x}_N) = \sum_{\alpha=1}^N V(\vec{x}_\alpha)$

and the Slater determinant is given by

$$\Psi(\vec{x}_1, \dots, \vec{x}_N) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N!}} \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_N} \epsilon_{i_1, \dots, i_N} \prod_{k=1}^N \phi_{i_k}(\vec{x}_k)$$

It follows that $\langle \sum_{\alpha} V(\vec{x}_\alpha) \rangle =$

$$\int \prod_{k=1}^N d^3 x_k \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{N!}} \sum_{j_1, \dots, j_N} \epsilon_{j_1, \dots, j_N} \phi_{j_k}^*(\vec{x}_k) \right) \cdot$$

$$\left(\sum_{\alpha} V(\vec{x}_\alpha) \right) \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{N!}} \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_N} \epsilon_{i_1, \dots, i_N} \prod_{k=1}^N \phi_{i_k}(\vec{x}_k) \right) =$$

$$\frac{1}{N!} \sum_{\substack{i_1, \dots, i_N \\ j_1, \dots, j_N}} \epsilon_{j_1, \dots, j_N} \epsilon_{i_1, \dots, i_N} \sum_{\alpha} \int \prod_{k=1}^N d^3 x_k \phi_{j_k}^*(\vec{x}_k) V(\vec{x}_\alpha) \phi_{i_k}(\vec{x}_k).$$

We observe that since our total potential $V_{tot}(\vec{x}_1, \dots, \vec{x}_N)$ treats each \vec{x}_i identically, and since the inner product is invariant under the interchange

$\vec{x}_i \leftrightarrow \vec{x}_j$ for $i \neq j$, $\langle V(\vec{x}_i) \rangle$ cannot differ from $\langle V(\vec{x}_j) \rangle$ in any way. It follows that we only need to compute $\langle V(\vec{x}_i) \rangle$ once, and the end result will be N times that inner product. Without loss of generality, we choose $\langle V(\vec{x}_1) \rangle$. It follows that $\langle V_{tot} \rangle =$

$$\frac{1}{N!} \sum_{\substack{i_1, \dots, i_N \\ j_1, \dots, j_N}} \epsilon_{j_1, \dots, j_N} \epsilon_{i_1, \dots, i_N} \cdot N \int \prod_{k=1}^N d^3 x_k \phi_{j_k}^*(\vec{x}_k) V(\vec{x}_1) \phi_{i_k}(\vec{x}_k)$$

$$= \frac{1}{(N-1)!} \sum_{\substack{i_1, \dots, i_N \\ j_1, \dots, j_N}} \epsilon_{j_1, \dots, j_N} \epsilon_{i_1, \dots, i_N} \left(\int d^3 x_1 \phi_{j_1}^*(\vec{x}_1) V(\vec{x}_1) \phi_{i_1}(\vec{x}_1) \right) \cdot \left(\prod_{k=2}^N \int d^3 x_k \phi_{j_k}^*(\vec{x}_k) \phi_{i_k}(\vec{x}_k) \right) =$$

$$\frac{1}{(N-1)!} \sum_{\substack{i_1, \dots, i_N \\ j_1, \dots, j_N}} \epsilon_{j_1, \dots, j_N} \epsilon_{i_1, \dots, i_N} \left(\prod_{k=2}^N \delta_{i_k j_k} \right) \left(\int d^3 x_1 \phi_{j_1}^*(\vec{x}_1) V(\vec{x}_1) \phi_{i_1}(\vec{x}_1) \right)$$

If $\epsilon_{i_1, \dots, i_N} \neq 0$, then the only value of j_1 that will make $\epsilon_{j_1, i_2, \dots, i_N} \neq 0$ is i_1 .

$$= \frac{1}{(N-1)!} \sum_{\substack{i_1, \dots, i_N \\ j_1}} \epsilon_{j_1, i_2, \dots, i_N} \epsilon_{i_1, \dots, i_N} \int d^3 x_1 \phi_{j_1}^*(\vec{x}_1) V(\vec{x}_1) \phi_{i_1}(\vec{x}_1) =$$

$$\frac{1}{(N-1)!} \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_N} (\epsilon_{i_1, \dots, i_N})^2 \int d^3 x \phi_{i_1}^*(\vec{x}) V(\vec{x}) \phi_{i_1}(\vec{x}) =$$

$$\frac{1}{(N-1)!} \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_N} (\epsilon_{i_1, \dots, i_N})^2 \langle \phi_{i_1} | V | \phi_{i_1} \rangle.$$

Now, fix i_1 and sum over i_2, \dots, i_N . There are $(N-1)!$ non-zero terms in the sum, and none of them affect the value of the inner product. Given that the squared Levi-Civita symbol in each case yields 1, this sum reduces to

$$\frac{1}{(N-1)!} \sum_{i=1}^N (N-1)! \langle \phi_{i_1} | V | \phi_{i_1} \rangle = \boxed{\sum_i \langle \phi_i | V | \phi_i \rangle}$$

Thus, for a system in a Slater determinant state, the expectation value of an arbitrary single-particle potential is the sum of the expectation values of the single-particle potential with the single-particle wavefunctions.