

Tentative Schedule and Suggested Reading

[Items below the thick line are from last year's schedule]

I Fundamentals		
A Theory of Measurement 1. position and momentum space 2. Hilbert space 3. projection operators 4. eigenvalues and eigenvectors 5. continuous spectrum and resolution of the identity	• Baym: Ch. 3 (Ch 1. and 2. would good too) • G&Y: Ch. 2.1 and 2.2 • Lorch is a readable and short math book • Wikipedia discussion of hermitian and self-adjoint operators • Lorch, Reisz and Nagy and the Wikipedia article all discuss resolutions of the identity	<i>Sep 9, 14, 16</i>
B Commutation and Uncertainty Relations 1. Gaussian wave functions 2. $[x_{\text{op}}, p_{\text{op}}] = i\hbar$ and the uncertainty principle 3. thought experiments	• G&Y Ch. 2.3 • Einstein-Bohr debates: Wikipedia	<i>Sep 15, 17</i>
C Time Development 1. Translations in space 2. Translations in time and the Schrödinger equation 3. Canonical quantization	• Baym: Ch. 5 • G&Y: Ch. 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5 • Useful to review classical Hamiltonian mechanics, perhaps in Goldstein: - Hamilton's equations, p 215 - Canonical transformations, p 237	<i>Sep 17, 22</i>
D Simple Harmonic Oscillator 1. Eigenstates and eigenvalues of H 2. Coherent states	• Baym: Ch 4 • G&Y Ch 4.2 (a)-(d) • Power series solution: Schiff: pp 60-65	<i>Sep 22, 24</i>

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E Semiclassical Limit. (WKB method) 1. propagating solutions 2. stationary phase approx. 3. Hamilton Jacobi theory 4. connection formulae a) Airy equation b) Stokes phenomena 5. Tunneling 6. 1-dimensional bound states	• G&Y Ch 4.5 • J. Heading • Goldstein: Ch 9 • Bender and Orszag: Ch 6.5, 6.6 • Understanding solutions to the Hamilton-Jacobi equations: Courant and Hilbert V II. Section II.	<i>Sep 24, Oct 1, 6</i>
II Applications		
A Angular momentum 1. Rotations, $O(3)$ and $SO(3)$ 2. Geometry of $SO(3)$ 3. Generators of $SO(3)$ 4. Spin-1/2 and $SU(2)$ 5. Spherical harmonics	• Baym: Ch 6, Ch 14. • G&Y: Ch 2.5, 3.1-3.4 • The topology of $SO(3)$: Wikipedia • General group theory: Hamermesh, Chevalley	<i>Oct 6, 8, 13, 15</i>
B α decay	• Mentioned in Shankar: Ch. 16.2	<i>Oct 15, 22, 27</i>
Midterm		Oct 20
C Hydrogen atom Summary of hydrogen bound states.	• G&Y: Ch. 5.1-5.2 • Baym: Ch. 7	<i>Oct 29</i>
D Magnetic field and vector potential 1. Local gauge symmetry 2. Magnetic monopoles 3. Aharonov-Bohm effect	• Wikipedia discussion: "Mathematical formulation" • G&Y: Ch 4.3.d, p 196	<i>Oct 29</i>
E Hydrogen atom with $\vec{B}$ 1. Size of $\vec{A}^2$ term 2. Van Leewen's theorem 2. Energy from orbital and spin magnetic moments	• G&Y: Ch 5.4 • Baym: Ch 14 • Huang: problem 7.4 and Sec 11.3	<i>Nov 5</i>
III Perturbation Theory		

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A Perturbation theory (non-degenerate) 1. Rayleigh-Schrodinger 2. Wigner-Brillouin 3. He atom electron-electron interaction 4. He ionization energy & variational method	• Baym: Ch 11 • G&Y: Ch 3.7(a) • Baym. pp. 242-244, G&Y: Ch 3.7(e)	<i>Nov 5, 10</i>
B Perturbation theory (degenerate) 1. 1st and 2nd order 2. Stark effect in Hydrogen 3. Polar molecules	• degenerate perturbation theory • G&Y: Ch 3.7(b) • Baym: pp 231-234 • G&Y: p 260 (complicated by inclusion of fine structure)	<i>Nov 12, 17</i>
IV Relativistic corrections to Hydrogen		
A. Coupling angular momenta 1. Spin-orbit coupling 2. Tensor products 3. Decomposing products states $ j_1, m_1\rangle \otimes j_2, m_2\rangle$	• Baym: Ch 15 • G&Y: Ch 3.5	<i>Nov 17, 19</i>
B. Fine structure of Hydrogen 1. Relativistic kinetic energy 2. Thomas precession 3. Spin-orbit coupling	• G&Y: Ch 5.3	<i>Nov 19, 24</i>
C. Hydrogen fine structure with $\vec{B} \neq 0$ 1. Wigner-Eckart theorem 2. Irreducible tensor operators 3. Weak and strong field limits 4. Wigner 3-j symbols	• G&Y: Ch 7.6 • Baym: Ch 17 • wigner-3-j.pdf	<i>Nov 24, Dec 1</i>
D. Hyperfine structure of Hydrogen	• G&Y: Ch 5.3 (b) and (c) • Baym: p 572	<i>Dec 1</i>
V Quantum Statistical Mechanics		

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A. Introduction 1. Overview/Review 2. Density matrix 3. Von Neuman entropy	• Kittel and Kroemer: Ch 1, 2 and 3 • G&Y: Ch 2.2, Ch 12.5	<i>Dec 1, 3, 8</i>
VI Quantum Computing		
A. Introduction 1. Classical computer architecture 2. Quantum gates	• Nielsen&Chuang Chs. 1.1 and 1.2	<i>Dec 8, Jan 21</i>
B. Examples 1. Deutsch algorithm 2. Deutsch-Jozsa algorithm 3. Teleportation	• N&C Chs. 1.3 and 1.4	<i>Jan 21, 26</i>
VII Time dependent Hamiltonians		
A. Formal solution	• Baym: Ch. 5	<i>Jan 26, 28</i>
B. Sudden approximation		<i>Jan 28</i>
C. Adiabatic approximation 1. Berry's phase 2. Large time limit	• G&Y: Ch 7.7, 7.8 • Proc. Roy. Soc. London, A392, 45-57 (1984)	<i>Feb 2</i>
D. Time-dependent perturbation theory	• G&Y: Ch. 2.4, 3.7 (c) • Landau-Lifshitz, p 140-143	<i>Feb 4</i>
E. Decay of an unstable state 1. Introduction 2. Fermi's golden rule 3. Photoionization of Hydrogen 4. Wigner-Weiskopf method	• G&Y: Ch. 3.7 (d) • Baym Ch. 12 • Wigner-Weiskopf: Le Bellac Appendix C	<i>Feb 4, 9, 11</i>
VIII Systems of identical particles		
A. General discussion	• Baym Ch 18 • G&Y Ch 11.1, 11.2	<i>Feb 23</i>
B. Bosons: second quantization	• Baym Ch 19 • G&Y Ch 11.1, 11.2	<i>Feb 23, 25</i>
C. Fermions: second quantization	• Baym Ch 17 • G&Y Ch 11.1, 11.2	<i>Mar 2</i>

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D. Grassmann variables	• DeWitt ; Ch 1.1	<i>Mar 4</i>
E. Coulomb gas	• Baym: Ch 19, p 427	<i>Mar 4, 9</i>
F. Thomas-Fermi atom	• Thomas_Fermi.pdf • Baym, p 445 (actually T-F and B-O were exchanged)	<i>Mar 9, 11</i>
IX Molecules		
A. Born-Oppenheimer approximation	• Baym p 471 (actually T-F and B-O were exchanged)	<i>Mar 11, 23</i>
Midterm		<i>Mar 25</i>
X Open quantum systems		
A. Master equation	• Carmichael Ch 1.1, 1.2, 1.3	<i>Mar 30, Apr 1</i>
B. Damped harmonic oscillator	• Carmichael Ch 1.4	<i>Apr 1, Apr 6</i>
XI Scattering theory		
A. S-matrix approach, perturbation theory 1. Formula for cross section 2. Rutherford scattering 3. Positron scattering on Hydrogen	• Scattering from the S-matrix	<i>Apr 6, 8, 13</i>
B. Stationary state scattering theory	• Cross section from stationary state approach • Baym Ch 9, 10 • G&Y Ch 8	<i>Apr 15</i>
C. Partial wave expansion	• Baym Ch 9, p197 • G&Y Ch 8.1(a)	<i>Apr 15, 20</i>
D. Optical theorem	• Baym Ch 9, p 201 • G&Y Ch 8.1(c)	<i>Apr 20</i>
E. Resonant scattering 1. Wigner-Weiskopf treatment 2. Incorporate rotational symmetry	• Baym Ch 9, p208	<i>Apr 22, 27</i>
XII Quantum treatment of light		

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A. Quantum theory 1. Maxwell's equations in a box 2. Quantize classical Maxwell modes	• Baym Ch 13, p 271 • G&Y 10.1	<i>Apr 27, 29</i>
B. Atomic radiative decay 1. Decay rate 2. Selection rules	• Baym Ch 13, p 281 • G&Y Ch 10.4	<i>Apr 29</i>
XIII Path integral formulation of quantum mechanics		
A. Derivation: single-particle quantum mechanics. 1. Canonical path integral 2. Feynman path integral	• Baym Ch 3, p 69 • G&Y Ch 2.7	<i>May 4</i>
B. Free particle case.	• G&Y Ch 2.7(b)	<i>May 4</i>