

95(4): Maclaurin Series Method for Considering the Effect of the Vacuum.

Consider the Maclaurin series for a function $f(x)$:

$$f(x) = f(0) + x f'(0) + \frac{x^2}{2!} f''(0) - (1)$$

$$+ \dots + \frac{x^n}{n!} f^{(n)}(0)$$

and consider any scalar function f of $\underline{r} + \underline{\delta r}$, where $\underline{\delta r}$ is a vacuum fluctuation. It follows that:

$$f(\underline{r} + \underline{\delta r}) = f(\underline{r}) + (\underline{r} + \underline{\delta r}) \cdot \underline{\nabla} f + \frac{1}{2} (\underline{r} + \underline{\delta r})^2 \nabla^2 f + \dots - (2)$$

At $\underline{r} = \underline{0} - (3)$

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta f &= f(\underline{\delta r}) - f(\underline{0}) \\ &= \underline{\delta r} \cdot \underline{\nabla} f(\underline{r}) + \frac{1}{2} (\underline{\delta r} \cdot \underline{\nabla})^2 f(\underline{r}) - (3) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{3} (\underline{\delta r} \cdot \underline{\nabla})^3 f(\underline{r}) + \dots \end{aligned}$$

On isotropic averaging in the vacuum:

$$\langle \underline{\delta r} \rangle = \underline{0} - (4) - (5)$$

and $\langle (\underline{\delta r} \cdot \underline{\nabla})^2 \rangle = \left\langle \left(\delta x \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \delta y \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \delta z \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right)^2 \right\rangle$

use: $\langle \delta x^2 \rangle = \langle \delta y^2 \rangle = \langle \delta z^2 \rangle = \frac{1}{3} \langle (\delta r)^2 \rangle - (6)$

and $\langle \delta x \delta y \rangle = \langle \delta x \delta z \rangle = \langle \delta y \delta z \rangle = 0 - (7)$

2) So for any scalar function f :

$$\langle \Delta f \rangle = \frac{1}{6} \langle \underline{\delta r} \cdot \underline{\delta r} \rangle \nabla^2 f \quad - (8)$$

is the average change in f due to the vacuum.
 Eq. (8) can be used for any scalar potential ϕ ,
 and for components of any vector function such as
 \underline{A} , \underline{B} and \underline{E} .

Therefore for example:

$$\langle \Delta \phi \rangle = \frac{1}{6} \langle \underline{\delta r} \cdot \underline{\delta r} \rangle \nabla^2 \phi \quad - (9)$$

$$\langle \Delta A_x \rangle = \frac{1}{6} \langle \underline{\delta r} \cdot \underline{\delta r} \rangle \nabla^2 A_x \quad - (10)$$

$$\langle \Delta A_y \rangle = \frac{1}{6} \langle \underline{\delta r} \cdot \underline{\delta r} \rangle \nabla^2 A_y \quad - (11)$$

$$\langle \Delta A_z \rangle = \frac{1}{6} \langle \underline{\delta r} \cdot \underline{\delta r} \rangle \nabla^2 A_z \quad - (12)$$

so

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \Delta \underline{A} \rangle &= \langle \Delta A_x \rangle \underline{i} + \langle \Delta A_y \rangle \underline{j} + \langle \Delta A_z \rangle \underline{k} \\ &= \frac{1}{6} \langle \underline{\delta r} \cdot \underline{\delta r} \rangle \left(\nabla^2 A_x \underline{i} + \nabla^2 A_y \underline{j} + \nabla^2 A_z \underline{k} \right) \end{aligned} \quad - (13)$$

Eq. (13) is also true for the electric field strength \underline{E}
 and the magnetic flux density \underline{B} , and in any system
 of coordinates.

The change in potential responsible for the Lamb

shift in atomic H is:

$$\langle \Delta \phi \rangle = \frac{1}{6} \langle \underline{\delta r} \cdot \underline{\delta r} \rangle \left\langle \nabla^2 \left(\frac{-e^2}{4\pi \epsilon_0 r} \right) \right\rangle \quad (14)$$

Let the expectation value is:

$$\begin{aligned} \left\langle \nabla^2 \left(\frac{-e^2}{4\pi \epsilon_0 r} \right) \right\rangle &= -\frac{e^2}{4\pi \epsilon_0} \int \psi^*(r) \nabla^2 \left(\frac{1}{r} \right) \psi(r) dr \\ &= \frac{e^2}{\epsilon_0} |\psi(0)|^2 \quad (15) \end{aligned}$$

Let we have used the Dirac delta function:

$$\nabla^2 \left(\frac{1}{r} \right) = -4\pi \delta(r) \quad (16)$$

This is problematic, because differentiation gives:

$$\nabla^2 \left(\frac{1}{r} \right) = 0 \quad (17)$$

but the Dirac delta function gives:

$$|\psi_{2s}(0)|^2 = \frac{1}{(8\pi a_0^3)^{1/2}} \quad (18)$$

for the H atom, and

$$|\psi_{2p}(0)|^2 = 0 \quad (19)$$

Using mode theory:

$$\langle \underline{\delta r} \cdot \underline{\delta r} \rangle \sim \frac{1}{2\epsilon_0 \pi^2} \frac{e^2}{\hbar c} \left(\frac{\hbar}{mc} \right)^2 \log_e \frac{4\epsilon_0 \hbar c}{e^2} \quad (20)$$

so the change in potential energy due to the Lamb shift is:

$$\langle \Delta \phi \rangle = \frac{d^5 mc^2}{6\pi} \log_e \frac{1}{\pi d} \quad (20)$$

where d is the fine structure constant. This is about 1.0 GHz, very similar to the observed shift.

) This calculation can be repeated for any \underline{A} , \underline{B} and \underline{E} and the spin corrections found. Eq. (20) can be taken to be a general property of the vacuum, it affects any reasonable quantity in physics.

Examples

Magnetic Dipole Potential

In this case:

$$\underline{A} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{\underline{m} \times \underline{r}}{|\underline{r}|^3} \quad - (21)$$

and $\langle \Delta \underline{A} \rangle$ is found from Eq. (13).

Magnetic Dipole Field

$$\underline{B} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi r^3} \left(\frac{3\underline{r}(\underline{m} \cdot \underline{r})}{r^2} - \underline{m} \right) \quad - (22)$$

and $\langle \Delta \underline{B} \rangle$ is found from Eq. (13). In QED theory.

$$\underline{B} = \underline{B}_0 - \underline{\omega} \times \underline{A}_0 \quad - (23)$$

so $\langle \Delta \underline{B} \rangle = \underline{B} - \underline{B}_0 = -\underline{\omega} \times \underline{A}_0 \quad - (24)$

and the spin corrections may be found.

Coulomb Electric Field

$$\underline{E} = -\frac{e}{4\pi \epsilon_0 r^2} \underline{e}_r \quad - (25)$$

and $\langle \Delta \underline{E} \rangle$ is found from Eq. (13).

Gravitational Field

$$\underline{g} = -\frac{mG}{r^2} \underline{e}_r \quad (26)$$

and $\langle \Delta g \rangle$ is found from eq. (13).

When considering the vacuum electric field \underline{E}_r then:

$$\underline{F} = m \frac{d^2}{dt^2} (\underline{S}_r)_r = -e \underline{E}_r \quad (27)$$

and this force may be considered to be the driving force for Euler Bernoulli resonance in a circuit. So vacuum effects may be greatly amplified by a particular circuit design.
