Weak perturbations and degenerate subspaces

GRE Subject Test · GRE Physics · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
perturbation /pəˈtəˈbeɪʃn/	A small electric field is a **perturbation** to the atom.
first-order shift	The **first-order shift** is the expectation value of the perturbation.
expectation value /ekspɪkˈteɪʃn ˈvælju:/	The **expectation value** of x is zero in a symmetric state. $\langle x \rangle$
second-order shift	The ground state's **second-order shift** is always negative.
degenerate /dɪˈdʒenəreɪt/	Two **degenerate** states have the same energy.

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