

# *Adiabatic switching for degenerate ground states*

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### ● Plan of the presentation

- Motivation: Green's functions in many-body perturbation theory
- Some background material
- The Gell-Mann and Low formula in a simple case
- The degenerate case
- Back to Green's functions

### ● References:

- C. BROUDER, G. STOLTZ AND G. PANATI, Adiabatic approximation, Gell-Mann and Low theorem and degeneracies: A pedagogical example, *Phys. Rev. A* **72** (2008) 042102
- C. BROUDER, G. PANATI AND G. STOLTZ, Many-body Green function of degenerate systems, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **103** (2009) 230401
- C. BROUDER, G. PANATI AND G. STOLTZ, Gell-Mann and Low formula for degenerate unperturbed states, *Ann. I. H. Poincaré-Phy* **10**(7) (2010) 1285-1309

# Physical motivation

- Gell-Mann and Low formula (*Phys. Rev.*, 1951)  $\Psi_0 = \frac{U_\varepsilon(0, -\infty)\Phi_0}{\langle \Phi_0, U_\varepsilon(0, -\infty)\Phi_0 \rangle}$
- The two point Green's function is defined as

$$G(t, r; t', r') = -i \left\langle \Psi_0, T[\psi_H(t, r)\psi_H^\dagger(t'x')] \Psi_0 \right\rangle$$

where  $\Psi_0$  is the (**unknown**) ground state of some Hamiltonian  $H_0 + V$

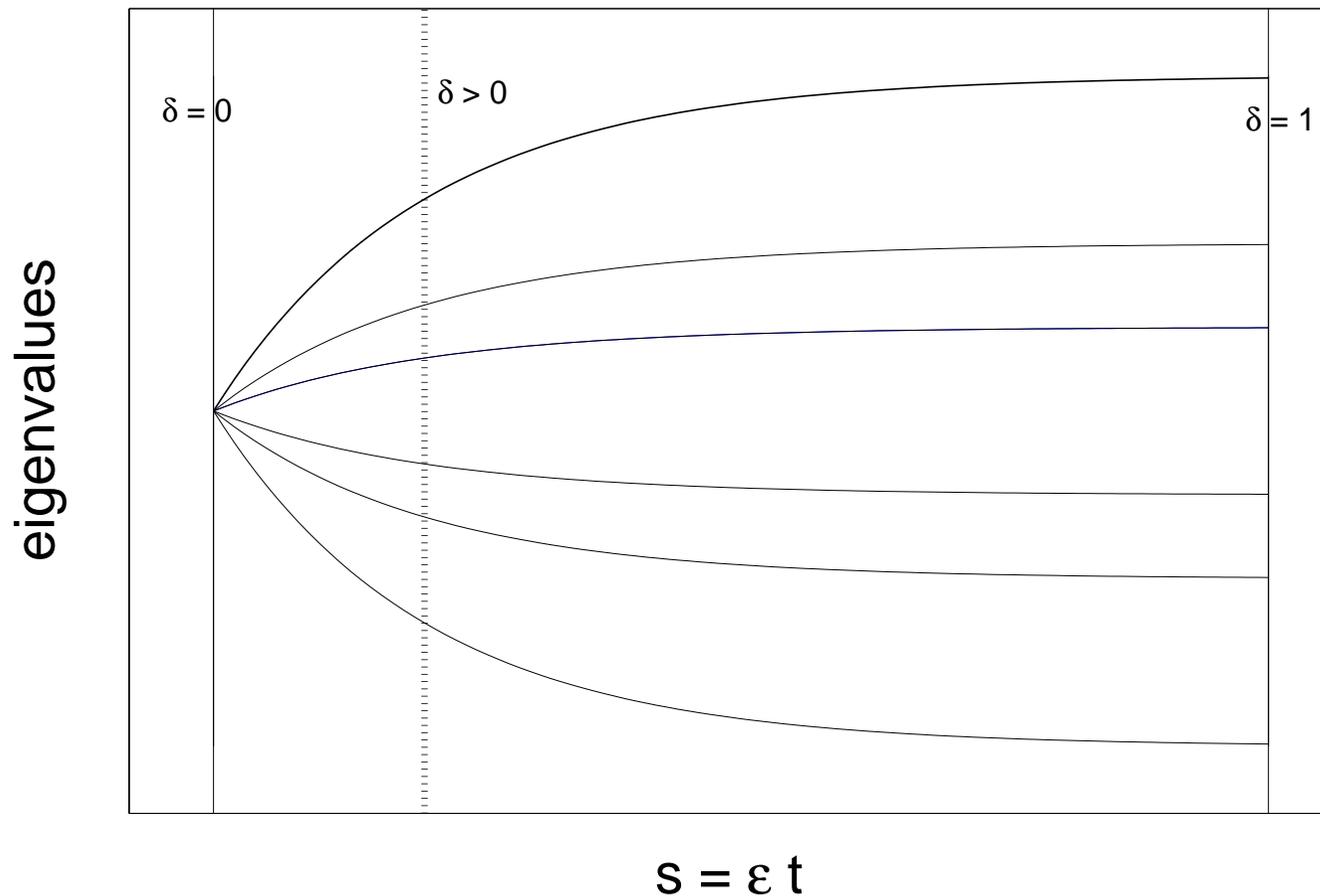
- When the ground state  $\Phi_0$  of  $H_0$  is known,  $G$  can be expressed in terms of **expectations with respect to  $\Phi_0$**  using the Gell-Mann and Low formula:

$$G(t, r; t', r') = -i \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{\left\langle \Phi_0, T[\psi_H(t, r)\psi_H^\dagger(t'x')U_\varepsilon(+\infty, -\infty)] \Phi_0 \right\rangle}{\langle \Phi_0, U_\varepsilon(+\infty, -\infty)] \Phi_0 \rangle}$$

- **Formal expansions** in terms of free-field Green's functions using Wick's theorem (Feynman diagrams)

## Gell-Mann and Low formula

The Gell-Mann and Low switching procedure requires some care when the ground state is degenerate... and this happens in many situations!



- Simplest possible system: Hamiltonian  $H(t) = H_0 + e^{-\varepsilon|t|}H_1$  with

$$H_0 = \begin{pmatrix} \mu - \delta & 0 \\ 0 & \mu + \delta \end{pmatrix}, \quad H_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \alpha \\ \alpha & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

- Analytical computations can be performed
- The switching procedure is well defined when  $\delta \neq 0$
- The switching procedure **fails for almost all initial states when  $\delta = 0$** , and can be defined for **two specific states only!**

First, some background material...

- Fixed nuclei of charges  $z_m$  located at  $R_m \in \mathbb{R}^3$  (Born-Oppenheimer approximation)
- **Wavefunction**  $\psi((x_1, \sigma_1), \dots, (x_N, \sigma_N)) \in \bigwedge_{i=1}^N L^2(\mathbb{R}^3 \times \{-1, 1\})$  with

$$\|\psi\|_{L^2} = 1$$

- The spin variable will be omitted in the sequel
- **Hamiltonian** operator (in atomic units)

$$H = \sum_{i=1}^N \left( -\frac{1}{2} \Delta_{x_i} + V_{\text{nuc}}(x_i) \right) + \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq N} \frac{1}{|x_i - x_j|}$$

with domain  $D(H) = \bigwedge_{i=1}^N H^2(\mathbb{R}^3) \subset \mathcal{H} = \bigwedge_{i=1}^N L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)$  and where

$$V_{\text{nuc}}(x) = - \sum_{m=1}^M \frac{z_m}{|x - R_m|}$$

## Spectrum of a linear operator (1)

- Linear operator  $A : D(A) \subset \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  on a Hilbert space, with **dense domain**  $D(A)$
- $A$  is injective if  $\text{Ker}(A) = \{\phi \in D(A) \mid A\phi = 0\} = \{0\}$
- If  $A$  is injective, it is possible to define its **inverse**, which is an operator with domain

$$D(A^{-1}) = \text{Ran}(A) = \left\{ \psi \in \mathcal{H} \mid \exists \phi \in D(A), \psi = A\phi \right\}$$

such that  $\phi = A^{-1}\psi \Leftrightarrow \psi = A\phi$

- $A$  is **invertible** if it has a bounded inverse defined on  $D(A^{-1}) = \mathcal{H}$
- If  $A$  is closed and one-to-one  $D(A) \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$ , the operator  $A^{-1} : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow D(A)$  is automatically bounded by the closed graph theorem
- Resolvent set  $\rho(A) =$  (open) set of  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$  such that  $\lambda - A$  is invertible
- The **spectrum**  $\sigma(A) = \mathbb{C} \setminus \rho(A)$  is closed

## Spectrum of a linear operator (2)

- The spectrum can be decomposed as  $\sigma(A) = \sigma_p(A) \cup \sigma_r(A) \cup \sigma_c(A)$ , where (“by decreasing defaults of invertibility”)
  - $\lambda \in \sigma_p(A)$  iff  $\text{Ker}(\lambda - A) \neq \{0\}$  [**eigenvalues**]
  - $\lambda \in \sigma_r(A)$  iff  $\lambda - A$  is injective but  $\overline{\text{Ran}(\lambda - A)} \neq \mathcal{H}$  [the inverse is not uniquely defined]
  - $\lambda \in \sigma_c(A)$  iff  $\lambda - A$  is injective,  $\overline{\text{Ran}(\lambda - A)} = \mathcal{H}$  but  $\text{Ran}(\lambda - A) \neq \mathcal{H}$  [the inverse is unbounded with dense domain; **generalized eigenvalues**]
- Other decomposition:  $\sigma(A) = \sigma_d(A) \cup \sigma_{\text{ess}}(A)$ , where the **discrete spectrum**  $\sigma_d(A) \subset \sigma_p(A)$  = isolated eigenvalues of finite multiplicity
- Examples (necessarily infinite dimensional)
  - **Residual** spectrum: shift operator  $\tau_d$  on  $l^2(\mathbb{N}, \mathbb{C})$  with  $\tau_d(z_0, z_1, z_2, \dots) = (0, z_0, z_1, \dots)$
  - **Continuous** spectrum:  $A\psi(x) = x\psi(x)$  on  $L^2(\mathbb{R})$

- Adjoint of an unbounded operator = closed operator with domain

$$\begin{aligned} D(A^*) &= \left\{ \phi \in \mathcal{H} \mid \forall \psi \in D(A), |\langle A\psi, \phi \rangle| \leq C_\phi \|\psi\| \right\} \\ &= \left\{ \phi \in \mathcal{H} \mid \exists \varphi \in \mathcal{H}, \forall \psi \in D(A), \langle A\psi, \phi \rangle = \langle \psi, \varphi \rangle \right\} \end{aligned}$$

defined by  $A^* \phi = \varphi$

- **Symmetric** operator:  $\forall (\phi, \psi) \in D(A)^2, \langle A\phi, \psi \rangle = \langle \phi, A\psi \rangle$  (i.e.  $A \subset A^*$ )
- A symmetric operator is self-adjoint if  $A = A^*$  (i.e.  $D(A) = D(A^*)$ )
- For self-adjoint operators,  $\sigma(A) \subset \mathbb{R}$  and  $\sigma_r(A) = \emptyset$
- An operator  $V$  is  $H_0$ -bounded if  $D(H_0) \subset D(V)$  and
$$\forall \phi \in D(H_0), \quad \|V\phi\| \leq a\|H_0\phi\| + b\|\phi\|$$
- **Kato-Rellich criterion**: If  $H_0$  is self-adjoint and  $V$  is symmetric and  $H_0$ -bounded with **relative bound**  $a < 1$ , then  $H = H_0 + V$  defined on  $D(H) = D(H_0)$  is self-adjoint

## Important example: the molecular Hamiltonian

- Consider  $D(H_0^N) = \bigwedge_{i=1}^N H^2(\mathbb{R}^3)$

$$H_0^N = \sum_{i=1}^N \left( -\frac{1}{2} \Delta_{x_i} + V_{\text{nuc}}(x_i) \right), \quad V^N = \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq N} \frac{1}{|x_i - x_j|}$$

- (Kato) Using the **Hardy inequality**

$$\forall \phi \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^3), \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{|\phi(x)|^2}{|x|^2} dx \leq 4 \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\nabla \phi(x)|^2 dx,$$

it can be shown that  $H^N = H_0^N + V^N$  is self-adjoint on  $\mathcal{H}_N = \bigwedge_{i=1}^N L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)$

- HVZ theorem:**  $\sigma_{\text{ess}}(H^N) = [E^{N-1}, +\infty[$ , where

$$E^{N-1} = \inf \sigma(H^{N-1})$$

- If  $N < Z + 1$ , then there are **infinitely many eigenvalues** of finite multiplicity below the essential spectrum

# The Gell-Mann and Low formula in a simple case

## Switching procedure (1)

- Consider, on a given Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$ ,
  - a self-adjoint operator  $H_0$ , with dense domain  $D(H_0) \subset \mathcal{H}$
  - a **symmetric** perturbation  $V$ ,  $H_0$ -bounded with relative bound  $a < 1$ .
  - define  $\tilde{H}(\lambda) = H_0 + \lambda V$  with  $\lambda \in [0, 1]$
- **Switching function**  $f \in C^2\left((-\infty, 0], [0, 1]\right)$ 
  - non-decreasing
  - $f, f'' \in L^1((-\infty, 0])$
  - $f(0) = 1$  and  $\lim_{\tau \rightarrow -\infty} f(\tau) = 0$
  - for  $\tau \in (-\infty, 0]$ , define  $H(\tau) = \tilde{H}(f(\tau)) = H_0 + f(\tau)V$
- Denote by  $U_\varepsilon(s, s_0)$  the unitary evolution generated by  $H(\varepsilon s)$ , *i.e.* the unique solution of the problem:

$$i \frac{dU_\varepsilon(s, s_0)}{ds} = H(\varepsilon s) U_\varepsilon(s, s_0), \quad U_\varepsilon(s_0, s_0) = \mathbb{I}$$

## Switching procedure (2)

- **Divergent phase** as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ ! Consider  $V = 0$  and  $\phi$  an eigenstate of  $H_0$ :

$$U_\varepsilon(s, s_0) \phi = \exp\left(-\frac{iE_0(s - s_0)}{\varepsilon}\right) \phi$$

- Remove divergence by working in the **interaction picture**:

$$U_{\varepsilon, \text{int}}(s, s_0) = e^{isH_0} U_\varepsilon(s, s_0) e^{-is_0H_0}.$$

- **Macroscopic time**  $t = \varepsilon s$ : unitary evolution

$$i\varepsilon \frac{dU^\varepsilon(t, t_0)}{dt} = H(t) U^\varepsilon(t, t_0), \quad U^\varepsilon(t_0, t_0) = \mathbb{I},$$

so that, in the interaction picture,  $U_{\text{int}}^\varepsilon(t, t_0) = e^{itH_0/\varepsilon} U^\varepsilon(t, t_0) e^{-it_0H_0/\varepsilon}$

- Standard results show that, for  $\psi \in D(H_0)$ , the following limit exists:

$$U_{\text{int}}^\varepsilon(t, -\infty) \psi = \lim_{t_0 \rightarrow -\infty} U_{\text{int}}^\varepsilon(t, t_0) \psi$$

- In order for eigenstates to be **stable** during the switching procedure, some **gap** conditions are required
- The spectrum of  $\tilde{H}(\lambda) = H_0 + \lambda V$ ,  $\lambda \in [0, 1]$ , consists of **two disconnected pieces**

$$\sigma(\tilde{H}(\lambda)) = \sigma_N(\lambda) \cup \left( \sigma(\tilde{H}(\lambda)) \setminus \sigma_N(\lambda) \right)$$

where  $\sigma_N(\lambda) = \left\{ \tilde{E}_j(\lambda), j = 1, \dots, N \right\} \subset \sigma_{\text{disc}}(\tilde{H}(\lambda))$

- There is a **uniform gap** between the two parts of the spectrum, and between the elements of  $\sigma_N(\lambda)$ , in the sense that:

$$\Delta(\lambda) = \min_{j=1, \dots, N} \left( \min \left\{ \left| \tilde{E}_j(\lambda) - E \right|, E \in \sigma(H(\lambda)) \setminus \{ \tilde{E}_1(\lambda), \dots, \tilde{E}_N(\lambda) \} \right\} \right),$$

$$\delta(\lambda) = \min \left\{ \left| \tilde{E}_j(\lambda) - \tilde{E}_i(\lambda) \right|, 1 \leq i < j \leq N \right\}$$

are bounded from below by a positive constant for all  $\lambda \in [0, 1]$

## The Gell-Mann and Low formula

- For simplicity, eigenvalues  $E_j(\tau) = \tilde{E}_j(f(\tau))$  of multiplicity 1
- Then, for an eigenstate  $\psi_j$  of  $H_0$  associated with  $E_j(-\infty)$ , if

$$\|P_j(-\infty) - P_j(0)\| < 1,$$

the limit

$$\Psi_j = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{U_{\text{int}}^\varepsilon(0, -\infty)\psi_j}{\langle \psi_j | U_{\text{int}}^\varepsilon(0, -\infty)\psi_j \rangle}$$

exists and is an eigenstate of  $H_0 + V$  corresponding to the eigenvalue  $E_j(0) = \tilde{E}_j(1)$

- First proof due to NENCIU and RASCHE (*Helvetica Physica Acta*, 1989)
- Extension to the case of eigenspaces of multiplicity higher than 1 provided some direction  $\phi$  exists such that the denominator does not vanish...

## First step of the proof: Geometric evolution

- **Kato intertwining** operator:  $\frac{d\tilde{A}(\lambda, \lambda_0)}{d\lambda} = \tilde{K}(\lambda) \tilde{A}(\lambda, \lambda_0)$  with  $\tilde{A}(\lambda_0, \lambda_0) = \mathbb{I}$
- Generator  $\tilde{K}(\lambda) = - \sum_{j=1}^{N+1} \tilde{P}_j(\lambda) \frac{d\tilde{P}_j}{d\lambda}(\lambda)$ , with  $\tilde{P}_{N+1}(\lambda) = \mathbb{I} - \sum_{j=1}^N \tilde{P}_j(\lambda)$
- Since  $\tilde{K}(\lambda)$  is uniformly bounded (gap, hence projectors smooth), the operator  $\tilde{A}(\lambda, \lambda_0)$  is well-defined and strongly continuous
- $\tilde{A}(\lambda, \lambda_0)$  is **unitary** (since  $K^* = -K$ ), and intertwines the spectral subspaces:

$$\tilde{P}_j(\lambda) = \tilde{A}(\lambda, \lambda_0) \tilde{P}_j(\lambda_0) \tilde{A}(\lambda, \lambda_0)^*$$

- Denoting by  $A(s, s_0) = \tilde{A}(f(s), f(s_0))$ ,

$$P_j(0) A(0, -\infty) \psi_j = A(0, -\infty) P_j(-\infty) \psi_j = A(0, -\infty) \psi_j,$$

so that  $A(0, -\infty) \psi_j$  is an **eigenstate** of  $H(0) = H_0 + V$

## Second step: Adiabatic evolution (adding the dynamical phase)

- **Adiabatic evolution** operator  $U_A(s, s_0)$  is defined as the unique solution of

$$i \frac{dU_A(s, s_0)}{ds} = H_A(s) U_A(s, s_0), \quad U_A(s_0, s_0) = \mathbb{I},$$

where the **adiabatic Hamiltonian** is  $H_A(s) = H(s) + iK(s)$

- $U_A$  is also an **intertwiner**
- $A$  and  $U_A$  **differ only by a phase**, which commutes with the spectral projectors: Define

$$\Phi(s, s_0) = A(s, s_0)^* U_A(s, s_0),$$

so that  $U_A(s, s_0) = A(s, s_0) \Phi(s, s_0)$ . Then,  $[\Phi(s, s_0), P_j(s_0)] = 0$

- The **time-evolution of the phase** matrix is then easily obtained and

$$U_A(s, s_0) P_j(s_0) = \exp \left( -i \int_{s_0}^s E_j(r) dr \right) A(s, s_0) P_j(s_0)$$

## Second step: Adiabatic evolution (rescaling the dynamical phase)

- Important again to work in the **interaction picture** to remove the divergent (dynamical) phase:  $U_{A,\text{int}}(s, s_0) = e^{isH_0} U_A(s, s_0) e^{-is_0H_0}$

- It can be shown, through some limiting procedure, that

$$U_{A,\text{int}}(0, -\infty) P_j(-\infty) = \exp\left(-i \int_{-\infty}^0 E_j(r) - E_0 dr\right) A(0, -\infty) P_j(-\infty)$$

- Phase well-defined since  $|E_j(r) - E_0| = |\tilde{E}_j(f(r)) - \tilde{E}_j(0)| \leq C f(r)$

- In the **time-rescaled** variable  $t = \varepsilon s$ ,

$$U_{A,\text{int}}^\varepsilon(0, -\infty) P_j(-\infty) = \exp\left(-\frac{i}{\varepsilon} \int_{-\infty}^0 E_j(\tau) - E_0 d\tau\right) A(0, -\infty) P_j(-\infty).$$

- **Eliminate the phase** using

$$\frac{P_j(0) \psi_j}{\|P_j(0) \psi_j\|^2} = \frac{A(0, -\infty) \psi_j}{\langle \psi_j | A(0, -\infty) \psi_j \rangle} = \frac{U_{A,\text{int}}^\varepsilon(0, -\infty) \psi_j}{\langle \psi_j | U_{A,\text{int}}^\varepsilon(0, -\infty) \psi_j \rangle},$$

## Third step: Adiabatic limit of the full evolution

- **Compare** the adiabatic and full evolutions in the rescaled time-variable:

$$i\varepsilon \frac{dU_A^\varepsilon(t, t_0)}{dt} = \left( H(t) + i\varepsilon K(t) \right) U_A^\varepsilon(t, t_0), \quad i\varepsilon \frac{dU^\varepsilon(t, t_0)}{dt} = H(t) U^\varepsilon(t, t_0)$$

- Prove the **uniform convergence**  $\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \|U^\varepsilon(0, -\infty) - U_A^\varepsilon(0, -\infty)\| = 0$   
(although  $U^\varepsilon(0, -\infty), U_A^\varepsilon(0, -\infty)$  do not have limits as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ )
- Strategy from (TEUFEL, *Adiabatic perturbation theory in quantum dynamics*, 2003):

$$U^\varepsilon(t, t_0) - U_A^\varepsilon(t, t_0) = -U^\varepsilon(t, t_0) \int_{t_0}^t U^\varepsilon(t_0, t') K(t') U_A^\varepsilon(t', t_0) dt'$$

- Define  $\mathcal{K}(t) = -i\varepsilon U^\varepsilon(t_0, t) F(t) U^\varepsilon(t, t_0)$  with  $[H(t), F(t)] = K(t)$ . Then

$$\mathcal{K}'(t) = U^\varepsilon(t_0, t) [H(t), F(t)] U^\varepsilon(t, t_0) - i\varepsilon U^\varepsilon(t_0, t) F'(t) U^\varepsilon(t, t_0)$$

- **Similar to**  $\int_0^t e^{-i\tau/\varepsilon} d\tau = i\varepsilon \left( e^{-it/\varepsilon} - 1 \right) =$  highly oscillatory integral

## Third step: Adiabatic limit of the full evolution (2)

- Expression of  $F(t)$ : useful to **keep track of the dependence on the gap** (required to understand the degenerate case)

$$F(t) = -\frac{1}{2} \left( \sum_{j=1}^{N+1} F_j(t) + G_j(t) \right), \quad F_j(t) = \frac{1}{2i\pi} \oint_{\Gamma_j(t)} P_j^\perp(t) R(z, t) \dot{R}(z, t) dz$$

where  $R(z, t) = (H(t) - z)^{-1}$  and  $\Gamma_j(t)$  is a contour enclosing  $E_j(t)$  and no other element of the spectrum

- Similar definitions for  $G_j, F_{N+1}, G_{N+1}$

- **Bounds**  $\|F(t)\| \leq C_F \frac{f'(t)}{f(t)}$  and

$$\int_{t_0}^t \|F'\| \leq C \left( \frac{1}{f(t_0)} \int_{t_0}^t (|f''| + (f')^2) + \frac{1}{f(t_0)^2} \int_{t_0}^t (f')^2 \right)$$

# The degenerate case

- Initial state is **degenerate**:  $\tilde{E}_j(0) = \tilde{E}_k(0)$  for all  $1 \leq j, k \leq N$
- **Degeneracy splitting** (for simplicity):  $\mathcal{P}_0 V \mathcal{P}_0$  has non-degenerate eigenvalues and for any  $\lambda^* > 0$ , there exists  $\alpha$  such that

$$\inf_{\lambda^* \leq \lambda \leq 1} \min_{k \neq l} \left| \tilde{E}_k(\lambda) - \tilde{E}_l(\lambda) \right| \geq \alpha > 0$$

- Let  $(\psi_1, \dots, \psi_N)$  be an basis of  $\mathcal{E}_0$  which **diagonalizes the bounded operator  $\mathcal{P}_0 V \mathcal{P}_0|_{\mathcal{E}_0}$** . Then, if  $\|P_j(-\infty) - P_j(0)\| < 1$ , the limit

$$\Psi_j = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{U_{\text{int}}^\varepsilon(0, -\infty) \psi_j}{\langle \psi_j | U_{\text{int}}^\varepsilon(0, -\infty) \psi_j \rangle}$$

exists and is an eigenstate of  $H_0 + V$  corresponding to  $E_j(0) = \tilde{E}_j(1)$

- Several extensions: decomposition to avoid the condition  $\|P_j(-\infty) - P_j(0)\| < 1$ ; extension the case when  $\mathcal{P}_0 V \mathcal{P}_0|_{\mathcal{E}_0}$  has degenerate eigenvalues; existence of finitely many eigenvalue crossings

## Characterization of the initial states

- Theorem II.6.1 in (KATO, *Perturbation Theory for Linear Operators*) shows that the eigenvalues  $\tilde{E}_j$  and projectors  $\tilde{P}_j$  are **analytic** functions of  $\lambda$
- Initial states defined from  $P_j^{\text{init}} := \tilde{A}(0, \lambda) \tilde{P}_j(\lambda) \tilde{A}(\lambda, 0)$ . **Characterization?**
- Eigenvectors satisfy  $\tilde{H}(\lambda) \phi_j(\lambda) = \tilde{E}_j(\lambda) \phi_j(\lambda)$  with

$$\tilde{E}_j(\lambda) = \sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} \lambda^n E_{j,n}, \quad \phi_j(\lambda) = \sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} \lambda^n \varphi_{j,n}$$

- Hierarchy of equations. First order condition

$$(H_0 - E_0) \varphi_{j,1} = (E_{j,1} - V) \varphi_{j,0}$$

- A **necessary** condition for this equation to have a solution is that the right-hand side belongs to  $\mathcal{E}_0^\perp$
- This requires  $E_{j,1} = \langle \varphi_{j,0}, V \varphi_{j,0} \rangle$  and  $\forall k \neq j, \langle \varphi_{k,0}, V \varphi_{j,0} \rangle = 0$  so that the basis **diagonalizes**  $\mathcal{P}_0 V \mathcal{P}_0|_{\mathcal{E}_0}$

- Geometric and adiabatic evolutions: **unchanged** (the regularity of the projectors follows from the analytic continuation at  $\lambda = 0$ )
- Adiabatic limit: **decomposition** of the evolution into

$$U^\varepsilon(0, t_0) - U_A^\varepsilon(0, t_0) = -U^\varepsilon(0, t_0) \int_{t_0}^T U^\varepsilon(t_0, t) K(t) U_A^\varepsilon(t, t_0) dt \\ - U^\varepsilon(0, t_0) \int_T^0 U^\varepsilon(t_0, t) K(t) U_A^\varepsilon(t, t_0) dt$$

- an evolution on  $[T, 0]$ , for Hamiltonians operators with (small) **gaps** of order  $f(T)$ ; bound in  $C\varepsilon(1 + f(T)^{-2})$
- an evolution on the time-frame  $(-\infty, T]$ , with  **$T$  small enough** so that the unitary evolutions are not very different; bound in  $Cf(T)$
- choose  $T$  such that  $f(T) = \varepsilon^{1/3}$  to have a **final bound in  $\varepsilon^{1/3}$**

# Physical extensions

## Application to Green's functions (formal)

- Operator  $A$  expressed in the **Heisenberg** picture  $A_{\text{hsnbrg}}(t) = e^{itH} A e^{-itH}$  and, in the **interaction** picture,  $A_{\text{int}}(t) = e^{itH_0} A e^{-itH_0}$
- Correlation function  $C_{A,B}(t, t') = \langle \psi | T [A_{\text{hsnbrg}}(t) B_{\text{hsnbrg}}(t')] | \psi \rangle$
- Technical lemma: For fixed  $t, t'$ ,

$$s\text{-}\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} U_{\varepsilon, \text{int}}(t, 0)^* A_{\text{int}}(t) U_{\varepsilon, \text{int}}(t, t') B_{\text{int}}(t') U_{\varepsilon, \text{int}}(t', 0) = A_{\text{hsnbrg}}(t) B_{\text{hsnbrg}}(t')$$

- Using the Gell-Mann and Low formula, it can then be shown that

$$C_{A,B}(t, t') = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{\langle \psi_0 | T [A_{\text{int}}(t) B_{\text{int}}(t') U_{\varepsilon, \text{int}}(+\infty, -\infty)] | \psi_0 \rangle}{\langle \psi_0 | U_{\varepsilon, \text{int}}(+\infty, -\infty) | \psi_0 \rangle}.$$

- Formal extension to the case when  $A, B$  are **field operators**
- Basis for a **perturbative treatment** of the Green's function, where the operators  $U_{\varepsilon, \text{int}}(+\infty, -\infty)$  in the numerator and denominator are expanded using Feynman diagrams.