Diamagnetic hydrogen atom at the limit of large field and large dimensionality (or magnetic quantum number m)

Here we suppose that a magnetic field B and a magnetic quantum number m both tend to infinity while their ratio tends to a constant. We introduce a small parameter $\delta = \frac{1}{m+a}$ and perform the expansion of the energy in powers of δ assuming that $\widetilde{B} = \delta B$ equals to a constant. If we choose the shift parameter a = 1/2 then the quantity \widetilde{B} coincides with p from a paper of W. Rosner et al. (1983).

In cylindrical coordinates, the Schrödinger equation takes the form:

$$\left[-\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \rho^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} \right) + \frac{m^2 - 1/4}{2\rho^2} - \frac{1}{r} + \frac{B^2}{8} \rho^2 - E \right] \psi(\rho, z) = 0$$
(1)

where $r = (\rho^2 + z^2)^{1/2}$, and the wave function $\Psi(r) = e^{im\phi} \rho^{-1/2} \psi(\rho, z)$. Multiplying (1) by δ^2 we arrive to the equation

$$\left[-\frac{\delta^2}{2} \left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \rho^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} \right) + \frac{1 - 2a\delta + (a^2 - 1/4)\delta^2}{2\rho^2} - \frac{\delta^2}{r} + \frac{\widetilde{B}^2}{8} \rho^2 - \widetilde{E} \right] \psi(\rho, z) = 0, \tag{2}$$

where $\tilde{E} = \delta^2 E$ is scaled energy. In a classical limit $\delta \to 0$, the wavefunction $\psi(\rho, z)$ concentrates around the minimum of the potential $\frac{1}{2\rho^2} + \frac{\tilde{B}^2}{8}\rho^2$ on the line $\rho = \rho_0$, $\rho_0 = (2/\tilde{B})^{1/2}$, and the energy tends to a scaled Landau energy $\tilde{E}^{(0)} = \tilde{B}/2$.

To calculate corrections to the classical limit, let us introduce displacement coordinate $x = m^{1/2}(\rho - \rho_0)$ and rewrite eq. (2):

$$\begin{bmatrix}
-\frac{1}{2}\frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial x^{2}} - \frac{\delta}{2}\frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial z^{2}} + \frac{\widetilde{B}^{2}}{2}x^{2} - 2^{-3/2}\widetilde{B}^{5/2}x^{3}\delta^{1/2} + \frac{5}{16}\widetilde{B}^{3}x^{4}\delta - \frac{\widetilde{B}}{2}a + \dots \\
-(\rho_{0}^{2} + z^{2})^{-1/2}\delta + \rho_{0}x(\rho_{0}^{2} + z^{2})^{-3/2}\delta^{3/2} + \dots - \overline{E}
\end{bmatrix} \phi(x, z) = 0, \tag{3}$$

where $\overline{E} = (\widetilde{E} - \widetilde{B}/2)\delta^{-1}$. In the lowest order in δ , the wavefunction is separable:

$$\varphi(x,z) = \varphi_{n_1}(x) f_{n_2}(z), \qquad (4)$$

where $\varphi_{n_1}(x)$ is a harmonic oscillator eigenfunction, and $f_{n_2}(z)$ is an eigenfunction in the potential $\left(\rho_0^2+z^2\right)^{-1/2}$. Up to the first order in δ , the energy in eq. (3) is:

$$\overline{E} = (n_1 + 1/2 - a)\widetilde{B} + \dots + \varepsilon_{n_2} \delta, \qquad (5)$$

where $\varepsilon_{\scriptscriptstyle n_2}$ is the eigenvalue corresponding to $f_{\scriptscriptstyle n_2}(z)$.

Within the approximation (5), the binding energy $E_{\rm B}=E_{\rm Landau}-E$ equals to $\varepsilon_{n_2}\delta$, where $E_{\rm Landau}=(m+2n_1+1)\frac{B}{2}$. So, our result coincides with "asymptotic" energy introduced by W. Rosner et al. (1983).