

If we have an Hamiltonian $\hat{H} = \hat{H}_0 + \hat{V}(t)$, the time evolution operator (taking for simplicity $t_0 = 0$) in the interaction picture is:

$$\hat{U}_I = Id + \sum_{j=1}^{+\infty} \frac{1}{(i\hbar)^j} \prod_{k=1}^j \int_0^{t^{(k)}} dt^{(k+1)} \hat{V}_I(t^{(k+1)}) \quad (1)$$

con $t(1) = t$. In the Schrödinger picture the time evolution operator turns out to be:

$$\hat{U}_S = e^{\frac{\hat{H}_0 t}{i\hbar}} \hat{U}_I = e^{\frac{\hat{H}_0 t}{i\hbar}} + \sum_{j=1}^{+\infty} \frac{1}{(i\hbar)^j} e^{\frac{\hat{H}_0 t}{i\hbar}} \prod_{k=1}^j \int_0^{t^{(k)}} dt^{(k+1)} \hat{V}_I(t^{(k+1)}) \quad (2)$$

The first term is just the evolution operator for the unperturbed Hamiltonian. Then I'll focus on the other terms. I'll suppose that \hat{H}_0 has this resolution of the identity (non degenerate eigenvalues):

$$Id = \sum_n |n\rangle \langle n| + \int dE |E\rangle \langle E| \quad (3)$$

Then one has:

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{(i\hbar)^j} e^{\frac{\hat{H}_0 t}{i\hbar}} \prod_{k=1}^j \int_0^{t^{(k)}} dt^{(k+1)} \hat{V}_I(t^{(k+1)}) = \\ & \frac{1}{(i\hbar)^j} \sum_n \sum_m \left\{ \langle n| e^{\frac{\hat{H}_0 t}{i\hbar}} \prod_{k=1}^j \int_0^{t^{(k)}} dt^{(k+1)} \hat{V}_I(t^{(k+1)}) |m\rangle \right\} |n\rangle \langle m| + \\ & \frac{1}{(i\hbar)^j} \int dE \int dE' \left\{ \langle E| e^{\frac{\hat{H}_0 t}{i\hbar}} \prod_{k=1}^j \int_0^{t^{(k)}} dt^{(k+1)} \hat{V}_I(t^{(k+1)}) |E'\rangle \right\} |E\rangle \langle E'| \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

and this is equal to:

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{(i\hbar)^j} \sum_n \sum_m \left\{ e^{-i\omega_n t} \langle n| \prod_{k=1}^j \int_0^{t^{(k)}} dt^{(k+1)} \hat{V}_I(t^{(k+1)}) |m\rangle \right\} |n\rangle \langle m| + \\ & \frac{1}{(i\hbar)^j} \int dE \int dE' \left\{ e^{-i\omega(E)t} \langle E| \prod_{k=1}^j \int_0^{t^{(k)}} dt^{(k+1)} \hat{V}_I(t^{(k+1)}) |E'\rangle \right\} |E\rangle \langle E'| \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

Now the quantity between curly brackets is a complex number that depends on t : its expression in the Schrödinger picture is awful but it is still a complex number! I'll call it $c_j^{(n,m)}(t)$ in the discrete case and $c_j(t, E, E')$ in the continuous case. For simplicity I have put also the factor $\frac{1}{(i\hbar)^j}$ into the curly brackets. Then I have:

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{U}_S &= e^{\frac{\hat{H}_0 t}{i\hbar}} + \sum_{j=1}^{+\infty} \sum_n \sum_m \left\{ c_j^{(n,m)}(t) \right\} |n\rangle \langle m| + \\ & \sum_{j=1}^{+\infty} \int dE \int dE' \left\{ c_j(t, E, E') \right\} |E\rangle \langle E'| \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

Now I'll take a bound state $|i\rangle$ of the unperturbed Hamiltonian \hat{H}_0 as initial state, I'll calculate $|i_t\rangle$ and then I'll calculate $\langle\epsilon|i_t\rangle$ where $|\epsilon\rangle$ is a continuous state of the unperturbed Hamiltonian \hat{H}_0 . I have:

$$\begin{aligned}\langle\epsilon|i_t\rangle &= \langle\epsilon|\hat{U}_S|i\rangle = \langle\epsilon|e^{\frac{\hat{H}_0 t}{i\hbar}}|i\rangle + \sum_{j=1}^{+\infty} \sum_n \sum_m \left\{ c_j^{(n,m)}(t) \right\} \langle\epsilon|n\rangle \langle m|i\rangle + \\ &\sum_{j=1}^{+\infty} \int dE \int dE' \left\{ c_j(t, E, E') \right\} \langle\epsilon|E\rangle \langle E'|i\rangle\end{aligned}\tag{7}$$

Now $\langle m|i\rangle = \delta_{m,i}$ and $\langle\epsilon|E\rangle = \delta(\epsilon - E)$ so i obtain:

$$\begin{aligned}\langle\epsilon|i_t\rangle &= e^{-i\omega_i t} \langle\epsilon|i\rangle + \sum_{j=1}^{+\infty} \sum_n \left\{ c_j^{(n,i)}(t) \right\} \langle\epsilon|n\rangle + \\ &\sum_{j=1}^{+\infty} \int dE' \left\{ c_j(t, \epsilon, E') \right\} \langle E'|i\rangle\end{aligned}\tag{8}$$

Now if we have that $\langle E|n\rangle = \langle n|E\rangle = 0$ as you said on the thread, it seems that I obtain $\langle\epsilon|i_t\rangle = 0$ because all of the terms in the sum running on j are 0 as the first term is.