

1. Let $l \geq m \geq 0$.

(a) Show that $P_l^m(-x) = (-1)^{l-m} P_l^m(x)$.

(b) If the spherical coordinates of a vector \mathbf{r} are (r, θ, ϕ) , what are the spherical coordinates of $-\mathbf{r}$?

(c) Show that $Y_{l,m}$ has a parity $(-1)^l$ under $\mathbf{r} \rightarrow -\mathbf{r}$ transformation.

2. Show that $L_- = \hbar e^{-i\phi} \left(-\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} + i \cot \theta \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \right)$. Also show that $L_- Y_{l,m} = \hbar \sqrt{l(l+1) - m(m-1)} Y_{l,m-1}$. Use recurrence relation 6.97d given on page 282 of Bransden.

3. Just as $Y_{l,m}$ is an eigenfunction of L^2 and L_z , let $Z_{l,n}$ be an eigenfunction of L^2 and L_x that is

$$\begin{aligned} L^2 Z_{l,n} &= l(l+1) \hbar^2 Z_{l,n} \\ L_x Z_{l,n} &= n \hbar Z_{l,n}. \end{aligned}$$

We already know the eigenvalues of L^2 , that is $l = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

(a) What are allowed values for n for given l ?

(b) Show that $\langle Z_{l,n}, Y_{l',m} \rangle = 0$ if $l \neq l'$.

(c) Show that $Z_{l,n}$ can be expressed in terms of $Y_{l,m}$, that is

$$Z_{l,n} = \sum_{m=-l}^l C_{n,m} Y_{l,m}.$$

(d) Find $Z_{1,n}$ in terms of $Y_{1,m}$ explicitly.

4. Let the state of a particle constrained to move on a sphere, be $Y_{1,0}$. What are the possible results of measurement of L_x ? What is the probability associated with each outcome?

5. The state of a particle constrained to move on a sphere is

$$\Psi(\theta, \phi, t=0) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi}} \left(e^{i\phi} \sin \theta + \cos \theta \right)$$

(a) What are the probabilities for the various results of the measurement of L_z at $t=0$? What about at $t > 0$?

(b) What is the expectation value of L_z at $t=0$?

6. Let $|j, m\rangle$ be the eigenstate of the angular momentum operators J^2 and J_z with eigenvalues $j(j+1)\hbar^2$ and $m\hbar$ respectively. Obtain a matrix representation of operators J_x , J_y , J_z , J_+ , J_- and J^2 using $|j, m\rangle$ as the basis for $j = 3/2$.

7. Show that

$$\mathbf{J}_{\pm} |j, m\rangle = \sqrt{j(j+1) - m(m \pm 1)} |j, m \pm 1\rangle$$

Tutorial 7

Q1. $l \geq m \geq 0$,

(a) By Rodrigue's Formula

$$P_l^m(x) = (1-x^2)^{m/2} \frac{d^m}{dx^m} P_l(x)$$

$(1-x^2)^{m/2}$ is even. $P_l(x)$ is polynomial with parity $(-1)^l$ with every derivative parity is multiplied by -1 . Thus parity of $P_l^m(x)$ is $(-1)^{l-m}$.

(b) With $\vec{r} = (r, \theta, \phi)$, $-\vec{r} = (r, \pi - \theta, \pi + \phi)$

(c) Spherical Harmonics

$$Y_{lm} = (-1)^m N_n P_l^m(\cos\theta) e^{im\phi}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow Y_{lm}(-\hat{r}) &= Y_{lm}(\pi - \theta, \pi + \phi) \\ &= (-1)^m N_n P_l^m(\cos(\pi - \theta)) e^{im(\phi + \pi)} \\ &= (-1)^m N_n P_l^m(-x) e^{im\phi} (-1)^m \\ &= (-1)^m N_n (-1)^{l-m} P_l^m(\cos\theta) e^{im\phi} (-1)^m \\ &= (-1)^l Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi). \end{aligned}$$

Q2. From $L_x = (-i\hbar) \left[-\sin\phi \frac{\partial}{\partial\theta} - \cot\theta \cos\phi \frac{\partial}{\partial\phi} \right]$

and $L_y = (-i\hbar) \left[\cos\phi \frac{\partial}{\partial\theta} - \cot\theta \sin\phi \frac{\partial}{\partial\phi} \right]$

It is easy to see that

$$L_- = L_x - iL_y = \hbar e^{-i\phi} \left[-\frac{\partial}{\partial\theta} + i \cot\theta \frac{\partial}{\partial\phi} \right]$$

Then $L_- Y_{lm} = N_{lm} \frac{\hbar e^{-i\phi}}{\sin\theta} \left[-\sin\theta \frac{\partial}{\partial\theta} + i \cos\theta \frac{\partial}{\partial\phi} \right] P_l^m(\cos\theta) e^{im\phi}$

$$= N_{lm} \frac{\hbar e^{-i\phi}}{\sin\theta} \left[-\sin\theta \frac{\partial}{\partial\theta} - m \cos\theta \frac{\partial}{\partial\phi} \right] P_l^m(\cos\theta) e^{im\phi}$$

Now: $(1-x^2) \frac{d}{dx} P_l^m(x) = -(1-x^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} (l+m) \cdot (l-m+1) P_l^{m-1}(x) + mx P_l^m(x)$

put $x = \cos\theta \Rightarrow \frac{d}{d\theta} = \frac{dx}{d\theta} \cdot \frac{d}{dx} = -\sin\theta \frac{d}{dx}$

$\Rightarrow \sin^2\theta \cdot \left(-\frac{1}{\sin\theta} \frac{d}{d\theta}\right) P_l^m(\cos\theta) = -\sin\theta (l+m)(l-m+1) P_l^{m-1} + mx P_l^m$

Substituting back in $L_- Y_{lm}$,

$$L_- Y_{lm} = N_{lm} \frac{\hbar e^{-i\phi}}{\sin\theta} \left[-\sin\theta (l+m)(l-m+1) P_l^{m-1} \right] e^{im\phi}$$

$$= (-1)^m \left[\frac{(2l+1)}{4\pi} \cdot \frac{(l-m)!}{(l+m)!} \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} (-\hbar) (l+m)(l-m+1) P_l^{m-1} e^{i(m-1)\phi}$$

$$= (-1)^{m-1} \left[\frac{2l+1}{4\pi} \cdot \frac{(l-m+1)!}{(l+m-1)!} \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \hbar P_l^{m-1} e^{i(m-1)\phi} \cdot \hbar \sqrt{(l+m)(l-m+1)}$$

$$= \hbar \sqrt{(l+m)(l-m+1)} \cdot Y_{lm}$$

Q3. Given

$$L^2 z_{l,n} = l(l+1)\hbar^2 z_{l,n} \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} \\ \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} l=0,1,\dots \\ \text{but we don't know} \\ \text{n yet.} \end{array}$$

$$L_x z_{l,n} = n\hbar z_{l,n}$$

(a) It is easy to see that eigenvalues of L_x must be $n\hbar$ s.t.

$$-l \leq n \leq l \quad \text{and } n \text{ integral.}$$

(b) $z_{l,n}$ and $Y_{l,m}$ are eigenfunctions of L^2 (Hermitian) operator then

$$\langle z_{l,n}, Y_{l',m'} \rangle = 0 \quad \text{if } l \neq l'$$

(c) Now every function, including $z_{l,n}$ can be written in terms of harmonics.

$$z_{l,n} = \sum_{l'} \sum_{m'} a_{l'm'}^{ln} Y_{l'm'}$$

where

$$a_{l'm'}^{ln} = \langle z_{l'm}, Y_{l'm}^* \rangle$$

but $a_{l'm'}^{ln} = 0$ if $l \neq l'$

$$\Rightarrow z_{ln} = \sum_{m'} a_{l'm'}^{ln} Y_{l'm'}$$
$$= \sum_m C_{n,m} Y_{l'm}$$

let $a_{l'm}^{ln} = C_{n,m}$.

(d) Now,

$$z_{1,1} = \sum_m C_{1,m} Y_{1,m}$$

but $L_x z_{1,1} = \hbar z_{1,1} = L_+ (C_{1,1} Y_{1,1} + C_{1,0} Y_{1,0} + C_{1,-1} Y_{1,-1})$

$$\hbar (C_{1,1} Y_{1,1} + C_{1,0} Y_{1,0} + C_{1,-1} Y_{1,-1}) = C_{1,1} \frac{1}{2} (L_+ + L_-) [C_{1,1} Y_{1,1} + C_{1,0} Y_{1,0} + C_{1,-1} Y_{1,-1}]$$

$$= \frac{\hbar}{2} [C_{1,1} (\sqrt{2} Y_{1,0}) + C_{1,0} \sqrt{2} (Y_{1,1} + Y_{1,-1}) + C_{1,-1} Y_{1,0} \sqrt{2}]$$

\Rightarrow

$$\hbar C_{1,1} = \hbar C_{1,0} \sqrt{2}/2$$

$$\hbar C_{1,0} = \frac{\hbar}{\sqrt{2}} (C_{1,1} + C_{1,-1})$$

$$\hbar C_{1,-1} = \hbar C_{1,0} / \sqrt{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow C_{1,0} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \text{ and } C_{1,1} = C_{1,-1} = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow z_{1,1} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}} [Y_{1,1} + \sqrt{2} Y_{1,0} + Y_{1,-1}]$$

$$z_{1,0} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [Y_{1,1} - Y_{1,-1}]$$

$$z_{1,-1} = \frac{1}{2} [Y_{1,1} - \sqrt{2} Y_{1,0} + Y_{1,-1}]$$

Q4. Continuing from Q3:

possible results for measurement of L_x are $\hbar, 0, -\hbar$.

$$P(L_x = \hbar) = |\langle z_{11}, Y_{1,0} \rangle|^2 = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$P(L_x = 0) = |\langle z_{1,0}, Y_{1,0} \rangle|^2 = 0$$

$$P(L_x = -\hbar) = |\langle z_{1,-1}, Y_{1,0} \rangle|^2 = \frac{1}{2}$$

Q5. Given: $\Psi(\theta, \phi, t=0) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi}} (e^{i\phi} \sin\theta + \cos\theta)$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi}} \left(-\sqrt{\frac{8\pi}{3}} Y_{11} + \sqrt{\frac{4\pi}{3}} Y_{10} \right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} (Y_{10} - \sqrt{2} Y_{11})$$

(a) $P(L_z = \hbar) = \frac{2}{3}$
 $P(L_z = 0) = \frac{1}{3}$
 $P(L_z = -\hbar) = 0$ } at all times.

(b) $\langle L_z \rangle = \frac{2\hbar}{3}$.

Q6. Clearly $J^2 = \frac{15}{4} \hbar^2 I_{4 \times 4}$ and

$$J_z = \hbar \begin{bmatrix} 3/2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1/2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -3/2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Now $J_+ = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \sqrt{3} & & \\ 0 & 0 & \hbar & \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 2\sqrt{3} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ and $J_- = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \sqrt{3} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \sqrt{3} & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

Q7. Since $J_- J_+ = J^2 - J_z(J_z + 1)$

and $J_+ |j, m\rangle = c_m |j, m+1\rangle$

Then

$$\langle j, m | J_- J_+ | j, m \rangle = c_m^2 \langle j, m+1 | j, m+1 \rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow (j(j+1) - m(m+1)) = c_m^2$$

$$\Rightarrow c_m = \sqrt{j(j+1) - m(m+1)}$$

Similarly $J_+ J_- = J^2 - J_z(J_z - 1)$, $J_- |j, m\rangle = d_m |j, m-1\rangle$

gives

$$d_m = \sqrt{j(j+1) - m(m-1)}$$