

1. Consider a particle trapped in a cubical box given by potential

$$V(x, y, z) = \begin{cases} 0 & 0 \leq x, y, z \leq L \\ \infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- (a) Let  $n(E)$  be the number of energy eigenstates with energy less than  $E$ . Find  $n(E)$ .  
 (b) Find the density of states, which is defined as

$$g(E) = \frac{1}{L^3} \frac{dn}{dE}(E).$$

- (c) Sketch  $g(E)$ .

2. An anisotropic harmonic oscillator has the potential energy function

$$V(x, y, z) = \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2(x^2 + y^2) + \frac{1}{2}m\omega_z^2 z^2.$$

(Assume that  $\omega_z/\omega$  is irrational is large.)

- (a) Write down first few eigen-energies and their degeneracies.  
 (b) This problem is separable in cartesian coordinates. Write down the eigenfunctions corresponding to the first few eigenstates.  
 (c) Do the operators  $\mathbf{L}_x$ ,  $\mathbf{L}_y$  and  $\mathbf{L}_z$  commute with the hamiltonian? And does  $\mathbf{L}^2$ ?  
 (d) Write down the ground state. Is this eigenfunction  $\mathbf{L}_z$ ? If so, what is the eigenvalue?  
 (e) The degeneracy of the first excited state (energy:  $\frac{1}{2}\hbar\omega_z + 2\hbar\omega$ ) is two. When separated in cartesian coordinates, the *un-normalized* eigenfunctions are

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_{100}(x, y, z) &= x \exp\left[-\frac{\alpha^2 x^2}{2}\right] \exp\left[-\frac{\alpha^2 y^2}{2}\right] \exp\left[-\frac{\alpha_z^2 z^2}{2}\right] \\ \phi_{010}(x, y, z) &= y \exp\left[-\frac{\alpha^2 x^2}{2}\right] \exp\left[-\frac{\alpha^2 y^2}{2}\right] \exp\left[-\frac{\alpha_z^2 z^2}{2}\right] \end{aligned}$$

where  $\alpha = \sqrt{m\omega/\hbar}$  and  $\alpha_z = \sqrt{m\omega_z/\hbar}$ . Show that these functions are not eigenfunctions of  $\mathbf{L}_z$ ? Can you construct linear combinations of  $\phi_{100}$  and  $\phi_{010}$ , which are eigenfunctions of  $\mathbf{L}_z$ ? (Hint: Write these functions in spherical polar coordinates and remember  $e^{im\phi}$  are eigenfunctions of  $\mathbf{L}_z$ .)

3. Let  $x_1 = x$ ,  $x_2 = y$ , and  $x_3 = z$ . Similarly, for any vector quantity  $\mathbf{A}$ , let  $A_1 = A_x$ ,  $A_2 = A_y$  and  $A_3 = A_z$ .

- (a) Prove that  $\mathbf{L}$  is a hermitian operator.  
 (b) Prove  $[L_i, x_j] = i\hbar \sum_{k=1}^3 \epsilon_{ijk} x_k$ . Here  $\epsilon_{ijk}$  is called Levi-Civita antisymmetric symbol, given by

$$\epsilon_{ijk} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } ijk = 123, 231, 312 \\ -1 & \text{if } ijk = 132, 321, 213 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- (c) Prove  $[L_i, p_j] = i\hbar \sum_{k=1}^3 \epsilon_{ijk} p_k$ .

4. For Legendre polynomials, Prove:

(a) Orthogonality:

$$\int_{-1}^1 P_m(x)P_n(x) = \frac{2}{2n+1} \delta_{m,n}$$

(b) Recursion Relations:

$$\begin{aligned}(n+1)P_{n+1}(x) &= (2n+1)xP_n(x) - nP_{n-1}(x) \\ (1-x^2)\frac{dP_n}{dx} &= -nxP_n(x) + nP_{n-1}(x)\end{aligned}$$

5. Let  $T_a = \exp[-ia\hat{P}_x/\hbar]$ , where  $\hat{P}_x$  is the  $x$ -component of the momentum operator.

(a) If  $f' = T_a f$ , show that  $f'$  is a function obtained by shifting  $f$  by a displacement  $a$ , that is  $f'(x) = f(x-a)$ .

(b) Let  $\hat{H} = \frac{1}{2m}\hat{P}_x^2 + V(x)$  be the hamiltonian operator. Show that  $[\hat{H}, T_a] = 0$  if  $V(x) = V(x+a)$  for all  $x$ .

(c) If  $U_\alpha = \exp[-i\alpha L_z/\hbar]$  is an operator on  $L_2(\mathbb{R}^3)$ , show that

$$U_\alpha f(r, \theta, \phi) = f(r, \theta, \phi + \alpha),$$

where  $r, \theta$  and  $\phi$  are spherical polar coordinates.

## Tutorial 6.

1. (a) The eigenenergies are given by

$$E_{ijk} = \hbar\omega (i^2 + j^2 + k^2).$$

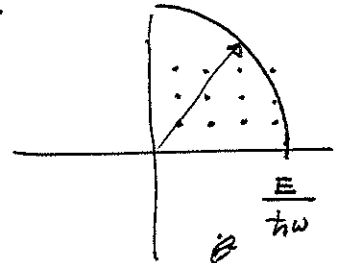
$$\hbar\omega = \frac{\hbar^2 \pi^2}{2mL^2}$$

$0 < i, j, k$  are integers.

Now, ~~for each~~ consider a set of points in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

$$S = \{ (i, j, k) / 0 < i, j, k, \text{ integers} \}$$

For each point in  $S$ , there is one energy eigenstate. Thus,

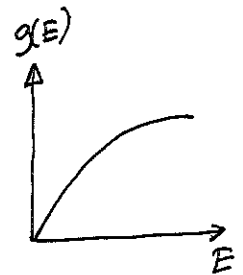


$n(E) =$  (number of points of  $S$ , which lie between co-ordinate planes and spherical surface given by eq.  $i^2 + j^2 + k^2 = \frac{E}{\hbar\omega}$ )

$$= \frac{1}{8} \text{Volume of sphere of radius } \left(\frac{E}{\hbar\omega}\right)^{1/2} \quad \text{For large } E$$

$$= \frac{1}{8} \cdot \frac{4}{3} \pi \left(\frac{E}{\hbar\omega}\right)^{3/2}$$

$$= \frac{\pi}{6} \left(\frac{2mL^2}{\hbar^2 \pi^2}\right)^{3/2} E^{3/2}$$



$$(b) \quad g(E) = \frac{1}{V} \frac{dn}{dE} = \frac{\pi}{6} \left(\frac{2m}{\hbar^2 \pi^2}\right)^{3/2} \cdot \frac{3}{2} E^{1/2}$$

2. (a) The eigenenergies are given by

$$E = \hbar\omega (i+j+1) + \frac{1}{2} \hbar\omega_2 (k + \frac{1}{2})$$

E	g: degeneracy.
$\frac{1}{2} \hbar\omega_2 + \hbar\omega$	1
$\frac{1}{2} \hbar\omega_2 + 2\hbar\omega$	2
$\frac{1}{2} \hbar\omega_2 + 3\hbar\omega$	3
$\frac{1}{2} \hbar\omega_2 + 4\hbar\omega$	4

(b)

(ijk)	Wave fn.
(000)	$N'_0 N_0 N_0' \cdot \exp(-\frac{\alpha^2 x^2}{2}) \exp(-\frac{\alpha^2 y^2}{2}) \exp(\frac{\alpha_2^2 z^2}{2})$
(100)	$N_1 N_0 N_0' (2\alpha x) \exp[-\frac{\alpha^2}{2}(x^2+y^2) - \frac{\alpha_2^2}{2} z^2]$
(010)	$N_0 N_1 N_0' (2\alpha y) \exp[-\frac{\alpha^2}{2}(x^2+y^2) - \frac{\alpha_2^2}{2} z^2]$
(200)	$N_2 N_0 N_0' (4\alpha^2 x^2 - 2) \exp[-\frac{\alpha^2}{2}(x^2+y^2) - \frac{\alpha_2^2}{2} z^2]$
(110)	$N_1 N_1 N_0' (4\alpha^2 xy) \exp[-\frac{\alpha^2}{2}(x^2+y^2) - \frac{\alpha_2^2}{2} z^2]$

where  $\alpha = \sqrt{\frac{m\omega}{\hbar}}$ ,  $\alpha_2 = \sqrt{\frac{m\omega_2}{\hbar}}$ ,  $N_n = \left(\frac{m\omega}{\pi\hbar}\right)^{1/4} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2^n n!}}$

$N'_n = \left(\frac{m\omega_2}{\pi\hbar}\right)^{1/4} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2^n n!}}$

(c) Now,  $\hat{H} = +\frac{\vec{p}^2}{2m} + V(\vec{r})$ .

Since

$$\frac{\vec{p}^2}{2m} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \left( \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( r^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2} \vec{L}^2 \right)$$

and that  $\vec{L}$  is function of  $\theta, \phi$  only  $\Rightarrow \left[ \frac{\vec{p}^2}{2m}, \vec{L} \right] = 0$

Potential energy operator

$$V(r) = \frac{1}{2} m \omega^2 (x^2 + y^2) + \frac{1}{2} m \omega_2^2 z^2$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} m \omega^2 r^2 \sin^2 \theta + \frac{1}{2} m \omega_2^2 r^2 \cos^2 \theta. \quad (\omega_2 \neq \omega)$$

The operator  $L_x = (-i\hbar) \left[ -\sin\phi \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} - \cot\theta \cos\phi \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \right]$  contains  $\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta}$ , hence  $[L_x, V(\vec{r})] \neq 0$ . Similarly  $[L_y, V(\vec{r})] \neq 0$

But  $L_z = (-i\hbar) \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi}$ . And  $V(\vec{r})$  is independent of  $\phi$ .

Thus

$$[L_z, V(\vec{r})] = 0$$

But

$$[L^2, V(\vec{r})] \neq 0.$$

(d) The ground state (without normalization const)

$$\phi_{000} = e^{-\alpha^2 r^2 \sin^2 \theta / 2} e^{-\alpha^2 r^2 \cos^2 \theta / 2}$$

Then  $L_z \phi_{000} = 0 = 0 \cdot \phi_{000}$

Thus  $\phi_{000}$  is eigenfunction of  $L_z$  with eigenvalue 0.

(e)  $\phi_{100} = r \sin \theta \cos \phi e^{-\alpha^2 r^2 \sin^2 \theta / 2} e^{-\alpha^2 r^2 \cos^2 \theta / 2}$

$$L_z \phi_{100} = (-r \sin \theta \sin \phi e^{-\alpha^2 r^2 \sin^2 \theta / 2} e^{-\alpha^2 r^2 \cos^2 \theta / 2}) (-i\hbar) = -\phi_{010} (-i\hbar)$$

Similarly

$$L_z \phi_{010} = \phi_{100} (-i\hbar)$$

Let  $\psi = \alpha \phi_{100} + \beta \phi_{010}$

$$L_z \psi = \lambda \psi \Rightarrow L_z (\alpha \phi_{100} + \beta \phi_{010}) = \lambda (\alpha \phi_{100} + \beta \phi_{010})$$

$$\Rightarrow (-i\hbar) [\alpha (-\phi_{010}) + \beta \phi_{100}] = \lambda \alpha \phi_{100} + \lambda \beta \phi_{010}$$

$$\Rightarrow +i\hbar \alpha = \lambda \beta \quad \text{and} \quad (-i\hbar) \beta = \lambda \alpha$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\alpha}{\beta} = \frac{\lambda}{i\hbar} \quad \frac{\alpha}{\beta} = -\frac{i\hbar}{\lambda} \Rightarrow \lambda^2 = \hbar^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda = \pm \hbar$$

if  $\lambda = \hbar$

$\lambda = -\hbar$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} i\alpha = \beta \\ -i\alpha = \beta \end{array} \right\} |\alpha|^2 + |\beta|^2 = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \psi_+ = (\phi_{100} + i\phi_{010}) \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \quad \lambda = \hbar$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} r e^{i\phi} \sin \theta e^{-r^2 \sin^2 \theta \alpha^2 / 2} e^{-\alpha^2 r^2 \cos^2 \theta / 2}$$

$$\psi_- = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} r e^{-i\phi} \sin \theta e^{-r^2 \sin^2 \theta \alpha^2 / 2} e^{-\alpha^2 r^2 \cos^2 \theta / 2}$$

You could have done this by inspection.

$$(4) (a) P_n(x) = \frac{1}{2^{n+1} n!} \frac{d^n}{dx^n} (x^2-1)^n$$

Then

$$I = \int_{-1}^1 P_n(x) P_m(x) dx =$$

$$= \frac{1}{2^{m+n} m! n!} \int_{-1}^1 D^{(m)}(x^2-1)^m D^n(x^2-1)^n dx \quad D = \frac{d}{dx}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2^{m+n} m! n!} \left[ D^m(x^2-1)^m D^{n-1}(x^2-1)^n \right]_{-1}^1 - \int_{-1}^1 D^{m+1}(x^2-1)^m D^{n-1}(x^2-1)^n dx$$

Assume  $n > m$

First term is zero because  $D^{n-1}(x^2-1)^n = (x^2-1) [\dots]$

or  $D^k(x^2-1)^n = (x^2-1)^{n-k} [\dots] = 0$  at  $x = \pm 1$ .

$$I = \frac{1}{2^{m+n} m! n!} \int_{-1}^1 D^{(m+n)}(x^2-1)^m (x^2-1)^n dx = 0$$

since  $n > m$   
 $m+n > 2m$   
 = degree of  $(x^2-1)^m$ .

$$I = \frac{1}{2^{2n} (n!)^2} \int_{-1}^1 D^{2n}(x^2-1)^n \cdot (x^2-1)^n dx$$

when  $m=n$ .

$$= \frac{1}{2^{2n} (n!)^2} \int_{-1}^1 (2n)! (x^2-1)^n dx$$

$$= \frac{1}{2^{2n} (n!)^2} (2n)! \int_0^\pi \sin^{(2n+1)} \theta d\theta$$

$$\left| \begin{array}{l} D^{2n} (x^{2n} - x^{2n-2} \dots) \\ \downarrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \parallel \\ (2n)! \qquad \qquad \qquad 0 \end{array} \right.$$

$$= \frac{(2n)!}{2^{2n} (n!)^2} \cdot \frac{(2n)(2n-2)\dots}{(2n+1)(2n-1)\dots} \cdot 2 = \frac{2}{2n+1}$$

$$4(b) \quad G(t, x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-2xt+t^2}} = \sum_n P_n(x) t^n$$

Note:  $\frac{dG}{dt} = \frac{(x-t)}{(1-2xt+t^2)^{3/2}} \Rightarrow (1-2xt+t^2) \frac{dG}{dt} = (x-t)G$

$$\Rightarrow (1-2xt+t^2) \sum_n P_n(x) n t^{n-1} = (x-t) \sum_n P_n(x) t^n$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_n \underbrace{(n+1) P_{n+1}(x) t^n}_{\text{Adjusting terms}} = \sum_n \underbrace{((2n+1)x P_n(x) - n P_{n-1}(x)) t^n}_{\text{First identity}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{(n+1) P_{n+1}(x) = (2n+1)x P_n(x) - n P_{n-1}(x)}$$

$\Rightarrow$  Now,  $\frac{dG}{dx} = \frac{t}{\sqrt{(1-2xt+t^2)^3}} = \frac{t}{(x-t)} \frac{dG}{dt}$

$$\Rightarrow (x-t) \frac{dG}{dx} = t \frac{dG}{dt}$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum (x-t) \cdot P_n' t^n = \sum t P_n n t^{n-1}$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum (x P_n' - P_{n+1}') t^n = \sum n P_n t^n$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{x P_n' - P_{n+1}' = n P_n}$$

Second identity

$\Rightarrow$  Also from the first identity (take a derivative and lower  $n$  by 1)

$$\begin{aligned} n P_n'(x) &= (2n-1)x P_{n-1}' + (2n-1) P_{n-1} - (n-1) P_{n-2}' \\ &= (2n-1)x P_{n-1}' + (2n-1) P_{n-1} + (n-1) \underbrace{[(n-1) P_{n-1} - x P_{n-1}']}_{\text{From second identity}} \end{aligned}$$

$$= n x P_{n-1}' + n^2 P_{n-1}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{P_n' - x P_{n-1}' = n P_{n-1}}$$

Third identity.

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{(x^2-1) P_n' = n x P_n - n P_{n-1}}$$

Required Identity

obtained by multiplying second Id by  $x$  and subtracting from 3<sup>rd</sup> Identity.

$$\text{Q5. (a) } T_a = \exp[-ia\hat{p}_x/\hbar]$$

$$= \exp\left[-a\frac{d}{dx}\right]$$

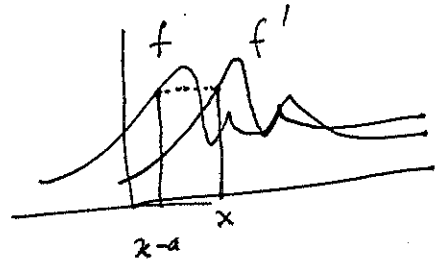
$$P_x = -i\hbar\frac{d}{dx}$$

$$\therefore T_a f(x) = \exp\left[-a\frac{d}{dx}\right] f(x)$$

$$= \left[1 - \frac{a}{1}\frac{d}{dx} + \frac{a^2}{2}\frac{d^2}{dx^2} - \dots\right] f(x)$$

$$= \sum_n f^{(n)}(x) \cdot \frac{a^n}{n!} (-1)^n$$

$$\therefore f'(x) = f(x-a)$$



(b) Clearly,

$$\left[T_a, \frac{p_x^2}{2m}\right] = 0$$

$$\text{Now } T_a (V(x) f(x)) = V(x+a) \cdot f(x+a)$$

$$= V(x+a) T_a f(x)$$

$$\Rightarrow T_a V(x) = V(x+a) T_a$$

$$\text{Thus if } V(x+a) = V(x) \Rightarrow T_a V(x) = V(x) T_a$$

$$\Rightarrow [T_a, V(x)] = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow [T_a, \hat{H}] = 0$$

(c) Exactly same as (a).