

Lecture 22

$$\psi_l^m(\theta, \varphi) = Y_l^m(\theta, \varphi) = \dots$$

These functions are orthogonal,

$$\int_0^{2\pi} d\varphi \int_0^\pi \sin\theta d\varphi \left(Y_l^m(\theta, \varphi) \right)^* Y_{l'}^{m'}(\theta, \varphi) = \delta_{ll'} \delta_{mm'}.$$

For $m \neq m'$, the above is straightforward:

$$\int_0^{2\pi} d\varphi e^{-im\varphi} e^{+im'\varphi} = \delta_{mm'} \cdot 2\pi$$

For equal m and m' , but different l & l' the proof is more complicated, but we know, that eigenfunctions of a Hermitian operator, corresponding to different eigenvalues, are orthogonal.

The Hamiltonian of a 3d rotator:

$$\hat{H} = \frac{\hat{L}^2}{2I}, \quad \text{and } I \text{ is the moment of inertia.}$$

In quantum mechanics, the allowed values of energy are

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$$E_l = \frac{\hbar^2}{2J} l(l+1) \quad \text{and eigenfunctions}$$

coincide with eigenfunction of the square of the angular momentum operator $\hat{L}^2$

Spin

States with half-integer angular momentum are not allowed, because the rotation around 2π changes sign.

For elementary particles such rotations have no meaning and states with half-integer angular values of the angular momentum operators are allowed. These states are intrinsic characteristics of elementary particles.

To distinguish from the real angular momentum, we use the notation for operators

$$\hat{\vec{S}} = \{\hat{S}_x, \hat{S}_y, \hat{S}_z\}$$

$$[\hat{S}_x, \hat{S}_y] = i\hbar \hat{S}_z, \quad [\hat{S}_y, \hat{S}_z] = i\hbar \hat{S}_x, \quad [\hat{S}_z, \hat{S}_x] = i\hbar \hat{S}_y$$

It is convenient to redefine $\vec{S} \rightarrow \frac{\hat{\vec{S}}}{\hbar}$

$$[\hat{S}_x, \hat{S}_y] = i \hat{S}_z$$

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For most elementary particles, $S = 1/2$
 where S is the "eigen value" of $\hat{S}^2$:

$$\hat{S}^2 |S, m\rangle = S(S+1) |S, m\rangle \quad S_z |S, m\rangle = m |S, m\rangle$$

$$S = 1/2 \quad \frac{3}{4} \quad m = \pm \frac{1}{2}.$$

Any state can be represented as
 a linear superposition of $1/2; \pm 1/2$:

$$|X\rangle = \alpha_+ |1/2; +1/2\rangle + \alpha_- |1/2; -1/2\rangle;$$

$$|\alpha_+|^2 + |\alpha_-|^2 = 1.$$

Such representation requires only two
 complex numbers (α_+, α_-)

$$|X\rangle \longleftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_+ \\ \alpha_- \end{pmatrix}$$

$$|1/2; +1/2\rangle \longleftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_+ = 1 \\ \alpha_- = 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$|1/2; -1/2\rangle \longleftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_+ = 0 \\ \alpha_- = 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

21.4/ The corresponding representation of the spin operators is realized in terms of 2×2 matrices:

$$\hat{S}^2 |X_+\rangle = \frac{3}{4} |X_+\rangle \quad \text{or} \quad \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3/4 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$a_{11} = 3/4; \quad a_{21} = 0$$

$$\hat{S}^2 |X_-\rangle = \frac{3}{4} |X_-\rangle \quad \begin{pmatrix} 3/4 & a_{12} \\ 0 & a_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 3/4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$a_{12} = 0; \quad a_{22} = 3/4$$

$$\hat{S}^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 3/4 & 0 \\ 0 & 3/4 \end{pmatrix}$$

Similarly: $\hat{S}_z = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$

$$\hat{S}_+ |X_+\rangle = |X_+\rangle; \quad \hat{S}_+ |X_-\rangle = 0$$

gives $\hat{S}_+ = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

Similarly, $\hat{S}_- = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

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$$\hat{S}_x = \frac{S_+ + S_-}{2} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\hat{S}_y = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{from} \quad \hat{S}_y = \frac{1}{2i} (\hat{S}_+ - \hat{S}_-)$$

A convenient (common) notation is

$$\vec{\hat{S}} = \frac{1}{2} \{ \hat{\sigma}_x; \hat{\sigma}_y; \hat{\sigma}_z \} \quad \hat{\sigma}_x = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \hat{\sigma}_y = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ \hat{\sigma}_z = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\vec{S}^2 = \hat{S}_x^2 + \hat{S}_y^2 + \hat{S}_z^2 = \frac{1}{4} \cdot 3 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{3}{4} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\hat{\sigma}_i \hat{\sigma}_k = 1 \delta_{ik} + i \sum_l \epsilon_{ikl} \hat{\sigma}_l$$

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

$$\hat{\sigma}_x \hat{\sigma}_y = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} i & 0 \\ 0 & -i \end{pmatrix} = i \hat{\sigma}_z.$$