

1. Let  $\mathcal{T}_{\vec{d}}$  denote the translation operator (displacement vector  $\vec{d}$ );  $\mathcal{D}(\hat{n}, \phi)$ , the rotation operator; and  $\pi$  the parity operator. Which, if any, of the following pairs commute? Why?

(a)  $\mathcal{T}_{\vec{d}}$  and  $\mathcal{T}_{\vec{d}'}$  ( $\vec{d}$  and  $\vec{d}'$  are in different directions.)

(b)  $\mathcal{D}(\hat{n}, \phi)$  and  $\mathcal{D}(\hat{n}', \phi')$  ( $\hat{n}$  and  $\hat{n}'$  are in different directions.)

(c)  $\mathcal{T}_{\vec{d}}$  and  $\Pi$ .

(d)  $\mathcal{D}(\hat{n}, \phi)$  and  $\Pi$ .

a)  $\partial_i$  &  $\partial_j$  commute

b)  $L_x$  &  $L_y$  don't commute

c)  $\partial_x$  &  $\Pi$  don't commute

d)  $L_i$  &  $\Pi$  commute

2. Because of weak (neutral-current) interactions there is a parity-violating potential between the atomic electron and the nucleus as follows:

$$V = \lambda [\delta^3(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{S} \cdot \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{S} \cdot \mathbf{p}\delta^3(\mathbf{x})]$$

where  $\mathbf{S}$  and  $\mathbf{p}$  are the spin and momentum operators of the electron, and the nucleus is assumed to be situated at the origin. As a result, the ground state of an alkali atom, usually characterized by  $|n, \ell, j, m\rangle$  actually contains tiny contributions from other eigenstates as follows

$$|n, \ell, j, m\rangle \rightarrow |n, \ell, j, m\rangle + \sum_{n', \ell', j', m'} C_{n', \ell', j', m'} |n', \ell', j', m'\rangle$$

On the basis of symmetry considerations *alone*, what can you say about  $(n', \ell', j', m')$  which give rise to non-vanishing contributions?

①  $j' = j, m' = m \Rightarrow$  angular momentum conservation

② if  $\ell$  is even  $\ell'$  is odd  
if  $\ell$  is odd  $\ell'$  is even

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Not from symmetry, but because wave functions  $\sim r^\ell$ , one must have  $\ell = 0$ , and one must be  $\ell = 1$ , so

$$\ell = 0, \ell' = 1 \quad \text{or} \quad \ell = 1, \ell' = 0$$

3. Suppose a spinless particle is bound to a fixed center by a potential  $V(x)$  so asymmetrical that no two energy levels are degenerate. Using time-reversal invariance prove

$$\langle \mathbf{L} \rangle = 0.$$

for any energy eigenstate. (This is known as **quenching** of orbital angular momentum.)

$$\langle i | \vec{L} | i \rangle = \text{real because } L \text{ is hermitian}$$

$$= \int d^3r \psi_i^*(\vec{r}) \vec{L} \psi_i(\vec{r})$$

If there is no degeneracy

$$\textcircled{L} \psi = e^{i\gamma} \psi, \quad \psi^* = e^{-i\gamma} \psi$$

$$= \int d^3r \psi_i^*(\vec{r}) i\hbar \partial_\phi \psi_i(\vec{r})$$

$$= \int d^3r \psi_i(\vec{r}) (-i\hbar \partial_\phi) \psi_i^*(\vec{r}) \quad \text{because } i\hbar \partial_\phi \text{ is real}$$

$$= \int d^3r e^{-i\gamma} \psi_i^*(\vec{r}) i\hbar \partial_\phi \psi_i(\vec{r}) e^{i\gamma}$$

$$= \int d^3r \psi_i^*(\vec{r}) (-i\hbar \partial_\phi) \psi_i(\vec{r})$$

Must be zero!

4. Consider the time-reversal operator for spin-1/2 particles,  $\Theta = \sigma_y K$ , where  $K$  takes the complex conjugate of all quantities to its right. Show that  $\Theta$  commutes with the rotation operator,

$$\mathcal{R}(\vec{\theta}) = \cos(\theta) + i\vec{\sigma} \cdot \hat{\theta} \sin(\theta).$$

$$[\Theta, i\sigma_x] = \sigma_y K (i\sigma_x) - (i\sigma_x) \sigma_y K$$

↙ because  $\sigma_x$  is real

$$= -i\sigma_y \sigma_x K - i\sigma_x \sigma_y K$$

$$= 0$$

$$[\Theta, i\sigma_y] = \sigma_y K (i\sigma_y) - (i\sigma_y) \sigma_y K$$

↙ because  $\sigma_y$  is imaginary

$$= i\sigma_y^2 K - i\sigma_y^2 K = 0$$

$$[\Theta, i\sigma_z] = \sigma_y K (i\sigma_z) - (i\sigma_z) \sigma_y K$$

↙ because  $\sigma_z$  is real

$$= -i\sigma_y \sigma_z K - i\sigma_z \sigma_y K$$

$$= 0$$

$$\mathcal{R} = \cos \theta \mathbb{1} + i\sigma_x \hat{\theta}_x \sin \theta + i\sigma_y \hat{\theta}_y \sin \theta + i\sigma_z \hat{\theta}_z \sin \theta$$

$\Theta$  commutes with  $\mathcal{R}$  because it commutes with  $\mathbb{1}, \sigma_x, \sigma_y, \sigma_z$

Consider a particle of mass  $M$  confined to a two-dimensional circle of radius  $R$ .

(a) Write down the Schrödinger equation for the wave function  $\psi(\phi)$ , where the potential depends only on  $\phi$ , and radial motion is ignored.

(b) Assuming the potential is periodic,

$$V(\phi + 2\pi/N) = V(\phi), \quad (5.34)$$

where  $N$  is an integer. Write the boundary condition relating  $\psi(\phi)$  and  $\psi(\phi + 2\pi/N)$ , where the eigenvalue of the rotation operator,  $\mathcal{R}(2\pi/N)$  is  $e^{i\gamma}$ . What values of  $\gamma$  are allowed?

(c) Assume the potential,

$$V(\phi) = \beta \sum_{j=1, N} \delta(\phi - 2\pi j/N), \quad (5.35)$$

Assume the wave function has the form,

$$\psi(\phi) = e^{im\phi} + \beta e^{-im\phi}, \quad 0 < \phi < 2\pi/N,$$

where  $m$  is not necessarily an integer. Find a transcendental expression for  $m$  in terms of  $\beta$ ,  $M$ ,  $\gamma$  and  $N$ .

(d) What are the energies, and degeneracies, of the eigen-states.

$$a) \quad -\frac{\hbar^2}{2MR^2} \partial_\phi^2 \psi + V(\phi) \psi = E \psi$$

$$b) \quad e^{iN\gamma} = 1, \quad \gamma = 2j\pi/N, \quad j = \text{integer}$$

$$c) \quad -\frac{\hbar^2}{2mR^2} \left( \partial_\phi \psi \Big|_{\frac{2\pi}{N} + \epsilon} - \partial_\phi \psi \Big|_{\frac{2\pi}{N} - \epsilon} \right) + \beta \psi \Big|_{\frac{2\pi}{N}} = 0$$

$$\psi = e^{im\phi} + \beta e^{-im\phi}$$

$$\text{Let } \alpha \equiv 2\pi/N, \quad \gamma = j\alpha$$

$$\psi(\alpha) = \psi(0) e^{ij\alpha}$$

$$e^{im\alpha} + \beta e^{-im\alpha} = e^{ij\alpha} (1 + \beta)$$

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2mR^2} \left[ \psi'(0^+) e^{ij\alpha} - \psi'(0^-) \right] = -\beta \psi(\alpha)$$

$$-im \left[ e^{im\alpha} - \beta e^{-im\alpha} - e^{ij\alpha} (1 - \beta) \right] = p (1 + \beta) e^{ij\alpha}$$

$$p \equiv \frac{2M\beta R^2}{\hbar^2}$$

$$e^{imx} + \beta e^{-imx} = e^{ijx} (1 + \beta)$$

$$\frac{\hbar^2}{2mR^2} [\psi'(0^+) e^{ijx} - \psi'(x^-)] = -\beta \psi(x)$$

$$-im [e^{imx} - \beta e^{-imx} - e^{ijx} (1 + \beta)] = e^{ijx} p (1 + \beta)$$

$$p \equiv \frac{2m\beta R^2}{\hbar^2}$$

$$\beta = \frac{e^{imx} - e^{ijx}}{e^{ijx} - e^{-imx}}$$

$$\beta = \frac{\frac{p}{m} e^{ijx} + i e^{imx} - i e^{ijx}}{+ i e^{-imx} - i e^{ijx} - \frac{p}{m} e^{ijx}}$$

$$\frac{e^{i(m-j)x} - 1}{1 - e^{-i(m+j)x}} = \frac{(\frac{p}{m} - i) + i e^{i(m-j)x}}{-(\frac{p}{m} + i) + i e^{-i(m+j)x}}$$

$$i + \left(-\frac{p}{m} - i\right) e^{i(m+j)x} + i e^{-2ijx} - i e^{-i(m+j)x}$$

$$= -i + i e^{i(m+j)x} - i e^{-2ijx} - \left(\frac{p}{m} - i\right) e^{-i(m+j)x}$$

$$2i - 2i e^{i(m-j)x} + 2i e^{-2ijx} - 2i e^{-i(m+j)x}$$

$$= \frac{p}{m} \left( -e^{-i(m+j)x} + e^{i(m-j)x} \right)$$

$$4i \cos jx - 4i \cos mx = 2i \frac{p}{m} \sin mx$$

$$2 \cos jx - 2 \cos mx = \frac{p}{m} \sin mx$$

$$\beta = \frac{e^{iqa} - e^{ika}}{e^{ika} - e^{-iqa}}$$

$$= \frac{ie^{iqa} - ie^{ika} + \frac{p}{q}e^{ika}}{-\frac{p}{q}e^{ika} + ie^{-iqa} - ie^{ika}}$$

$$-\frac{p}{q}e^{i(k+q)a} + i - ie^{i(k+q)a} + \frac{p}{q}e^{2ika}$$

$$- ie^{i(k-q)a} + ie^{2ika}$$

$$= ie^{i(k+q)a} - ie^{2ika} + \frac{p}{q}e^{2ika}$$

$$- i + ie^{i(k-q)a} - \frac{p}{q}e^{i(k-q)a}$$

$$2i - \frac{p}{q}e^{i(k+q)a} + \frac{p}{q}e^{i(k-q)a}$$

$$- 2ie^{i(k+q)a} + 2ie^{2ika} - 2ie^{i(k-q)a} = 0$$

$$4i \cos ka - 2i \frac{p}{q} \sin qa - 4i \cos qa = 0$$

$$2 \cos ka - 2 \cos qa - \frac{p}{q} \sin qa = 0$$

$$f = \frac{pa}{qa} \sin qa + 2 \cos qa - 2 \cos ka = 0$$

$$p \sin qa + 2q \cos qa - 2q \cos ka = 0$$