Introduction to Quantum Mechanics 171.303
Final Exam 12/20/06 9-12

Check the attached formula pages. Start each problem on a fresh page and give detailed reasoning. Please write your name on each page and ask your proctor for clarification if the text is unclear.

Problem 1 (14 points)

Consider the operator $\hat{W} = \hat{J}_x\hat{J}_y + \hat{J}_y\hat{J}_x$, where $\hat{J}_x$, $\hat{J}_y$, and $\hat{J}_z$ are operators for three Cartesian components of angular momentum.

(a) Prove that $\hat{W}$ corresponds to a physical observable. (6 points)

(b) For a state with angular momentum quantum number j, determine a lower bound on the product of uncertainties associated with the observables $\hat{W}$ and $\hat{J}_z$. (8 points)

Problem 2 (18 points)

Consider a three level quantum system where the Hamiltonian operator $\hat{H}$ and a physical observable $\hat{A}$ have the following matrix representations:

$$\hat{H} \to \hbar\omega \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \hat{A} \to \mu \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Here $\hbar\omega$ and μ are appropriately dimensioned positive constants.

(a) Does a quantum state exist in which the results of a measurement of the energy and of the physical observable $\hat{A}$ can both be predicted with certainty? (6 points)

(b) Determine which three values can be obtained in a measurement of $\hat{A}$ (6 points)

(c) Two measurements of $\hat{A}$ are now carried out separated in time by *t*. For the largest of the three possible outcomes of the first measurement, determine the expectation value $\langle\psi(t)|\hat{A}|\psi(t)\rangle$ for the second measurement (6 points)

Problem 3 (15 points)

Consider a pair of non-interacting particles with angular momentum quantum numbers s_1=3/2 and s_2=3/2 respectively and projection quantum numbers m_1 and m_2. Each particle has a random initial state.

(a) Determine the possible results of a measurement of the total angular momentum $\hat{S}^2$ for the spin pair and the probability for each of these values. (5 points)

The spin pair is now prepared such that the projection of angular momentum for each particle along a specific direction, $\hat{\mathbf{z}}$, is maximal and anti-parallel: $m_1 = 3/2$ and $m_2 = -3/2$.

(b) Determine the possible results of a measurement of the projection of total angular momentum along $\hat{\mathbf{z}}$ ($\hat{S}_z$) and the probability for each of these values. (4 points)

(c) Determine the possible results of a measurement of the total angular momentum $\hat{S}^2$ for the spin pair and the probability for each of these values. (6 points)

Problem 4 (18 points)

Consider the following one-dimensional potential

$$V(x) = \begin{cases} D\delta(x+a) & x < 0 \\ \infty & x \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

A particle with mass, *m*, is incident from $x = -\infty$.

(d) Describe why the magnitude of the reflection coefficient must be unity (5 points)

(e) Determine the reflection coefficient and check that it is consistent with (a) and behaves appropriately in the limit D=0 (13 points)

Problem 5 (20 points)

Consider a particle with mass *m* moving in a one-dimensional harmonic oscillator potential of the form $V(x) = \frac{1}{2} m\omega^2 x^2$.

(a) Prove the virial theorem for the harmonic oscillator using raising and lowering operators. (8 points)

At time t=0 the particle occupies a state with the following position space representation: $\psi(x, t=0) = A\exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(x/d)^2\right)$.

(b) Determine A. (5 points)

(c) Determine the probability that a measurement of the energy with this initial state yields $\frac{1}{2}\hbar\omega$. (7 points)

Problem 6 (15 points)

A particle with mass *m* moves in the following potential:

$$V(x) = \begin{cases} V_0\left(\dfrac{|x|}{a/2} - 1\right) & \text{for } |x| > a/2 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

(d) Draw conclusions about the nature of solutions to the Schrödinger equation based solely on qualitative features of the potential. (5 points)

(e) Use the WKB approximation to obtain an approximate expression for bound state energies. (5 points)

(f) Check your result by comparing the appropriate limit of it to the bound state energies for the infinite square well potential. (5 points)

Formulae

Simple Harmonic Oscillator

$$\hat{a} = \sqrt{\frac{m\omega}{2\hbar}}\left(\hat{x} + \frac{i}{m\omega}\hat{p}\right)$$

$$\hat{p} = -i\sqrt{\frac{m\omega\hbar}{2}}\left(\hat{a} - \hat{a}^{+}\right)$$

$$[\hat{a}, \hat{a}^{+}] = 1$$

$$|n\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n!}}\left(\hat{a}^{+}\right)^{n}|0\rangle$$

$$\psi_n(x) = \left(\frac{m\omega}{\pi\hbar}\right)^{\frac{1}{4}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2^n n!}} H_n(\xi)\exp\left(-\tfrac{1}{2}\xi^2\right), \quad \text{where } \xi = \sqrt{\frac{m\omega}{\hbar}}x$$

$H_0 = 1$ $\qquad H_1 = 2\xi$ $\qquad H_2 = 4\xi^2 - 2$ $\qquad H_2 = 8\xi^3 - 12\xi$

Raising and lowering operators

$$\hat{S}_{\pm}|sm\rangle = \hbar\sqrt{s(s+1) - m(m\pm 1)}\,|s, m\pm 1\rangle$$

Spin-1 Representations

$$\hat{S}_x = \frac{\hbar}{\sqrt{2}}\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \qquad \hat{S}_y = \frac{\hbar}{\sqrt{2}}\begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i & 0 \\ i & 0 & -i \\ 0 & i & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \qquad \hat{S}_z = \hbar\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

WKB bound states

$$\int_{x_1}^{x_2} p(x)dx = \begin{cases} n\pi\hbar & \text{Two hard boundaries} \\ (n-\tfrac{1}{4})\pi\hbar & \text{One hard boundary} \\ (n-\tfrac{1}{2})\pi\hbar & \text{No hard boundaries} \end{cases}$$

A potentially useful integral:

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2}dx = \sqrt{\pi}$$

A table of Clebsch-Gordan coefficients is provided

34. CLEBSCH-GORDAN COEFFICIENTS, SPHERICAL HARMONICS, AND d FUNCTIONS

Note: A square-root sign is to be understood over *every* coefficient, *e.g.*, for −8/15 read $-\sqrt{8/15}$.

Notation:

		J	J	...
		M	M	...
m_1	m_2			
m_1	m_2	Coefficients		
.	.			

1/2×1/2

m_1	m_2	J=1, M=+1
+1/2	+1/2	1

m_1	m_2	J=1, M=0	J=0, M=0
+1/2	−1/2	1/2	1/2
−1/2	+1/2	1/2	−1/2

m_1	m_2	J=1, M=−1
−1/2	−1/2	1

1×1/2

m_1	m_2	J=3/2, M=+3/2
+1	+1/2	1

m_1	m_2	J=3/2, M=+1/2	J=1/2, M=+1/2
+1	−1/2	1/3	2/3
0	+1/2	2/3	−1/3

m_1	m_2	J=3/2, M=−1/2	J=1/2, M=−1/2
0	−1/2	2/3	1/3
−1	+1/2	1/3	−2/3

m_1	m_2	J=3/2, M=−3/2
−1	−1/2	1

2×1

m_1	m_2	J=3, M=+3
+2	+1	1

m_1	m_2	J=3, M=+2	J=2, M=+2
+2	0	1/3	2/3
+1	+1	2/3	−1/3

m_1	m_2	J=3, M=+1	J=2, M=+1	J=1, M=+1
+2	−1	1/15	1/3	3/5
+1	0	8/15	1/6	−3/10
0	+1	2/5	−1/2	1/10

m_1	m_2	J=3, M=0	J=2, M=0	J=1, M=0
+1	−1	1/5	1/2	3/10
0	0	3/5	0	−2/5
−1	+1	1/5	−1/2	3/10

m_1	m_2	J=3, M=−1	J=2, M=−1	J=1, M=−1
0	−1	2/5	1/2	1/10
−1	0	8/15	−1/6	−3/10
−2	+1	1/15	−1/3	3/5

m_1	m_2	J=3, M=−2	J=2, M=−2
−1	−1	2/3	1/3
−2	0	1/3	−2/3

m_1	m_2	J=3, M=−3
−2	−1	1

1×1

m_1	m_2	J=2, M=+2
+1	+1	1

m_1	m_2	J=2, M=+1	J=1, M=+1
+1	0	1/2	1/2
0	+1	1/2	−1/2

m_1	m_2	J=2, M=0	J=1, M=0	J=0, M=0
+1	−1	1/6	1/2	1/3
0	0	2/3	0	−1/3
−1	+1	1/6	−1/2	1/3

m_1	m_2	J=2, M=−1	J=1, M=−1
0	−1	1/2	1/2
−1	0	1/2	−1/2

m_1	m_2	J=2, M=−2
−1	−1	1

Spherical harmonics

$$Y_1^0 = \sqrt{\frac{3}{4\pi}}\cos\theta$$

$$Y_1^1 = -\sqrt{\frac{3}{8\pi}}\sin\theta\, e^{i\phi}$$

$$Y_2^0 = \sqrt{\frac{5}{4\pi}}\Big(\frac{3}{2}\cos^2\theta - \frac{1}{2}\Big)$$

$$Y_2^1 = -\sqrt{\frac{15}{8\pi}}\sin\theta\cos\theta\, e^{i\phi}$$

$$Y_2^2 = \frac{1}{4}\sqrt{\frac{15}{2\pi}}\sin^2\theta\, e^{2i\phi}$$

$$Y_\ell^{-m} = (-1)^m Y_\ell^{m*}$$

$$d^\ell_{m,0} = \sqrt{\frac{4\pi}{2\ell+1}}\, Y_\ell^m\, e^{-im\phi}$$

2×1/2

m_1	m_2	J=5/2, M=+5/2
+2	+1/2	1

m_1	m_2	J=5/2, M=+3/2	J=3/2, M=+3/2
+2	−1/2	1/5	4/5
+1	+1/2	4/5	−1/5

m_1	m_2	J=5/2, M=+1/2	J=3/2, M=+1/2
+1	−1/2	2/5	3/5
0	+1/2	3/5	−2/5

m_1	m_2	J=5/2, M=−1/2	J=3/2, M=−1/2
0	−1/2	3/5	2/5
−1	+1/2	2/5	−3/5

m_1	m_2	J=5/2, M=−3/2	J=3/2, M=−3/2
−1	−1/2	4/5	1/5
−2	+1/2	1/5	−4/5

m_1	m_2	J=5/2, M=−5/2
−2	−1/2	1

3/2×1/2

m_1	m_2	J=2, M=+2
+3/2	+1/2	1

m_1	m_2	J=2, M=+1	J=1, M=+1
+3/2	−1/2	1/4	3/4
+1/2	+1/2	3/4	−1/4

m_1	m_2	J=2, M=0	J=1, M=0
+1/2	−1/2	1/2	1/2
−1/2	+1/2	1/2	−1/2

m_1	m_2	J=2, M=−1	J=1, M=−1
−1/2	−1/2	3/4	1/4
−3/2	+1/2	1/4	−3/4

m_1	m_2	J=2, M=−2
−3/2	−1/2	1

3/2×1

m_1	m_2	J=5/2, M=+5/2
+3/2	+1	1

m_1	m_2	J=5/2, M=+3/2	J=3/2, M=+3/2
+3/2	0	2/5	3/5
+1/2	+1	3/5	−2/5

m_1	m_2	J=5/2, M=+1/2	J=3/2, M=+1/2	J=1/2, M=+1/2
+3/2	−1	1/10	2/5	1/2
+1/2	0	3/5	1/15	−1/3
−1/2	+1	3/10	−8/15	1/6

m_1	m_2	J=5/2, M=−1/2	J=3/2, M=−1/2	J=1/2, M=−1/2
+1/2	−1	3/10	8/15	1/6
−1/2	0	3/5	−1/15	−1/3
−3/2	+1	1/10	−2/5	1/2

m_1	m_2	J=5/2, M=−3/2	J=3/2, M=−3/2
−1/2	−1	3/5	2/5
−3/2	0	2/5	−3/5

m_1	m_2	J=5/2, M=−5/2
−3/2	−1	1

$$\langle j_1 j_2 m_1 m_2 | j_1 j_2 J M\rangle = (-1)^{J-j_1-j_2}\langle j_2 j_1 m_2 m_1 | j_2 j_1 J M\rangle$$

$$d^j_{m',m} = (-1)^{m-m'} d^j_{m,m'} = d^j_{-m,-m'}$$

2×3/2

m_1	m_2	J=7/2, M=+7/2
+2	+3/2	1

m_1	m_2	J=7/2, M=+5/2	J=5/2, M=+5/2
+2	+1/2	3/7	4/7
+1	+3/2	4/7	−3/7

m_1	m_2	J=7/2, M=+3/2	J=5/2, M=+3/2	J=3/2, M=+3/2
+2	−1/2	1/7	16/35	2/5
+1	+1/2	4/7	1/35	−2/5
0	+3/2	2/7	−18/35	1/5

m_1	m_2	J=7/2, M=+1/2	J=5/2, M=+1/2	J=3/2, M=+1/2	J=1/2, M=+1/2
+2	−3/2	1/35	6/35	2/5	2/5
+1	−1/2	12/35	5/14	0	−3/10
0	+1/2	18/35	−3/35	−1/5	1/5
−1	+3/2	4/35	−27/70	2/5	−1/10

m_1	m_2	J=7/2, M=−1/2	J=5/2, M=−1/2	J=3/2, M=−1/2	J=1/2, M=−1/2
+1	−3/2	4/35	27/70	2/5	1/10
0	−1/2	18/35	3/35	−1/5	−1/5
−1	+1/2	12/35	−5/14	0	3/10
−2	+3/2	1/35	−6/35	2/5	−2/5

m_1	m_2	J=7/2, M=−3/2	J=5/2, M=−3/2	J=3/2, M=−3/2
0	−3/2	2/7	18/35	1/5
−1	−1/2	4/7	−1/35	−2/5
−2	+1/2	1/7	−16/35	2/5

m_1	m_2	J=7/2, M=−5/2	J=5/2, M=−5/2
−1	−3/2	4/7	3/7
−2	−1/2	3/7	−4/7

m_1	m_2	J=7/2, M=−7/2
−2	−3/2	1

3/2×3/2

m_1	m_2	J=3, M=+3
+3/2	+3/2	1

m_1	m_2	J=3, M=+2	J=2, M=+2
+3/2	+1/2	1/2	1/2
+1/2	+3/2	1/2	−1/2

m_1	m_2	J=3, M=+1	J=2, M=+1	J=1, M=+1
+3/2	−1/2	1/5	1/2	3/10
+1/2	+1/2	3/5	0	−2/5
−1/2	+3/2	1/5	−1/2	3/10

m_1	m_2	J=3, M=0	J=2, M=0	J=1, M=0	J=0, M=0
+3/2	−3/2	1/20	1/4	9/20	1/4
+1/2	−1/2	9/20	1/4	−1/20	−1/4
−1/2	+1/2	9/20	−1/4	−1/20	1/4
−3/2	+3/2	1/20	−1/4	9/20	−1/4

m_1	m_2	J=3, M=−1	J=2, M=−1	J=1, M=−1
+1/2	−3/2	1/5	1/2	3/10
−1/2	−1/2	3/5	0	−2/5
−3/2	+1/2	1/5	−1/2	3/10

m_1	m_2	J=3, M=−2	J=2, M=−2
−1/2	−3/2	1/2	1/2
−3/2	−1/2	1/2	−1/2

m_1	m_2	J=3, M=−3
−3/2	−3/2	1

2×2

m_1	m_2	J=4, M=+4
+2	+2	1

m_1	m_2	J=4, M=+3	J=3, M=+3
+2	+1	1/2	1/2
+1	+2	1/2	−1/2

m_1	m_2	J=4, M=+2	J=3, M=+2	J=2, M=+2
+2	0	3/14	1/2	2/7
+1	+1	4/7	0	−3/7
0	+2	3/14	−1/2	2/7

m_1	m_2	J=4, M=+1	J=3, M=+1	J=2, M=+1	J=1, M=+1
+2	−1	1/14	3/10	3/7	1/5
+1	0	3/7	1/5	−1/14	−3/10
0	+1	3/7	−1/5	−1/14	3/10
−1	+2	1/14	−3/10	3/7	−1/5

m_1	m_2	J=4, M=0	J=3, M=0	J=2, M=0	J=1, M=0	J=0, M=0
+2	−2	1/70	1/10	2/7	2/5	1/5
+1	−1	8/35	2/5	1/14	−1/10	−1/5
0	0	18/35	0	−2/7	0	1/5
−1	+1	8/35	−2/5	1/14	1/10	−1/5
−2	+2	1/70	−1/10	2/7	−2/5	1/5

m_1	m_2	J=4, M=−1	J=3, M=−1	J=2, M=−1	J=1, M=−1
+1	−2	1/14	3/10	3/7	1/5
0	−1	3/7	1/5	−1/14	−3/10
−1	0	3/7	−1/5	−1/14	3/10
−2	+1	1/14	−3/10	3/7	−1/5

m_1	m_2	J=4, M=−2	J=3, M=−2	J=2, M=−2
0	−2	3/14	1/2	2/7
−1	−1	4/7	0	−3/7
−2	0	3/14	−1/2	2/7

m_1	m_2	J=4, M=−3	J=3, M=−3
−1	−2	1/2	1/2
−2	−1	1/2	−1/2

m_1	m_2	J=4, M=−4
−2	−2	1

d functions

$$d^1_{0,0} = \cos\theta \qquad d^{1/2}_{1/2,1/2} = \cos\frac{\theta}{2} \qquad d^1_{1,1} = \frac{1+\cos\theta}{2}$$

$$d^{1/2}_{1/2,-1/2} = -\sin\frac{\theta}{2} \qquad d^1_{1,0} = -\frac{\sin\theta}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$d^1_{1,-1} = \frac{1-\cos\theta}{2}$$

$$d^{3/2}_{3/2,3/2} = \frac{1+\cos\theta}{2}\cos\frac{\theta}{2}$$

$$d^{3/2}_{3/2,1/2} = -\sqrt{3}\,\frac{1+\cos\theta}{2}\sin\frac{\theta}{2} \qquad d^2_{2,2} = \Big(\frac{1+\cos\theta}{2}\Big)^2$$

$$d^{3/2}_{3/2,-1/2} = \sqrt{3}\,\frac{1-\cos\theta}{2}\cos\frac{\theta}{2} \qquad d^2_{2,1} = -\frac{1+\cos\theta}{2}\sin\theta$$

$$d^{3/2}_{3/2,-3/2} = -\frac{1-\cos\theta}{2}\sin\frac{\theta}{2} \qquad d^2_{2,0} = \frac{\sqrt{6}}{4}\sin^2\theta \qquad d^2_{1,1} = \frac{1+\cos\theta}{2}(2\cos\theta-1)$$

$$d^{3/2}_{1/2,1/2} = \frac{3\cos\theta-1}{2}\cos\frac{\theta}{2} \qquad d^2_{2,-1} = -\frac{1-\cos\theta}{2}\sin\theta \qquad d^2_{1,0} = -\sqrt{\frac{3}{2}}\sin\theta\cos\theta$$

$$d^{3/2}_{1/2,-1/2} = -\frac{3\cos\theta+1}{2}\sin\frac{\theta}{2} \qquad d^2_{2,-2} = \Big(\frac{1-\cos\theta}{2}\Big)^2 \qquad d^2_{1,-1} = \frac{1-\cos\theta}{2}(2\cos\theta+1) \qquad d^2_{0,0} = \Big(\frac{3}{2}\cos^2\theta - \frac{1}{2}\Big)$$

Figure 34.1: The sign convention is that of Wigner (*Group Theory*, Academic Press, New York, 1959), also used by Condon and Shortley (*The Theory of Atomic Spectra*, Cambridge Univ. Press, New York, 1953), Rose (*Elementary Theory of Angular Momentum*, Wiley, New York, 1957), and Cohen (*Tables of the Clebsch-Gordan Coefficients*, North American Rockwell Science Center, Thousand Oaks, Calif., 1974). The coefficients here have been calculated using computer programs written independently by Cohen and at LBNL.