Introduction to Quantum Mechanics 171.303
Midterm Exam 11/2/06 1-2

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

Problem 1 (25 points)

After passing through one channel of a Stern Gerlach apparatus with a field gradient in the *x*-*z* plane, a spin-1/2 particle is found in the following quantum state:

$$\left|\psi\right\rangle = A\left(\left|+\mathbf{z}\right\rangle - \sqrt{3}\left|-\mathbf{z}\right\rangle\right)$$

(a) Compute the normalization constant *A*. (10 points)

(b) What can be said about the direction of the field gradient? (15 points)

Problem 2 (25 points)

An electron is placed in a uniform magnetic field with strength *B*.

(a) Which component of angular momentum has a time independent expectation value? A full explanation is needed for full credit. (10 points)

A measurement of angular momentum is carried out in a direction perpendicular to the field direction at time t_0.

(b) For which future times is it possible to predict the exact outcome of a subsequent measurement of angular momentum along this same direction? (15 points)

Problem 3 (30 points)

Consider two particles with spin quantum number s_1=3/2 and s_2=1 respectively. Their interaction can be described by the Hamilton operator $\hat{H} = \frac{A}{\hbar^2} 2\hat{\mathbf{s}}_1 \cdot \hat{\mathbf{s}}_2$ where $A > 0$.

(a) By rewriting $\hat{H}$ in terms of $\hat{S}^2 = \left(\hat{\mathbf{s}}_1 + \hat{\mathbf{s}}_2\right)^2$ compute the eigenvalues of $\hat{H}$ and the number of degenerate states for each eigenvalue. (15 points)

The system is in its lowest energy state when a measurement of the projection of the total angular momentum along the *z*-direction is performed. The measurement yields $S_z = \hbar/2$.

(b) Determine the possible results for a subsequent measurement of s_{2z} and the respective probabilities. (15 points) (hint: use the Clebsch Gordan table)

Problem 4 (20 points)

Consider a spin-1 object subject to the following hamiltonian: $\hat{H} = \left(D/\hbar^2\right)\hat{S}_z^2$ where *D*>0.

(a) Determine the energy eigen-states and eigen-values. (10 points)

(b) Assume the spin is in the lowest energy state. Suggest a technique to create a transition into an excited state. (10 points) (Hint: Emulate NH_3 in an AC *E*-field.)

Formulae

Raising and lowering operators

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

Spin-1/2 eigenstates

$$|+\mathbf{x}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(|+\mathbf{z}\rangle + |-\mathbf{z}\rangle\right)$$

$$|+\mathbf{y}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(|+\mathbf{z}\rangle + i|-\mathbf{z}\rangle\right)$$

Spin-1/2 Representations

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

Pauli Matrices

$$\sigma_x = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \qquad \sigma_y = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \qquad \sigma_z = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Representation of rotation operator for spin-1/2 states

$$R(\phi\hat{\mathbf{n}}) = \mathbf{1}\cos\frac{\phi}{2} - i\sin\frac{\phi}{2}(\vec{\sigma}\cdot\hat{\mathbf{n}})$$

Spin-1 Representations

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

A table of Clebsch-Gordan coefficients is attached.

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:

m_1	m_2	J / M …
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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

$$d^{\,2}_{2,2} = \Big(\frac{1+\cos\theta}{2}\Big)^2$$

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

$$d^{\,2}_{2,0} = \frac{\sqrt{6}}{4}\sin^2\theta$$

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.