

Carleton University Physics Department
PHYS 4708 (Winter 2015, H. Logan)
Midterm exam

This exam is closed-book and -notes. The three questions will be weighted equally.

1. Consider a system of two spin-1 particles with total angular momentum $\vec{J} = \vec{S}_1 + \vec{S}_2$. In certain materials, various effects conspire to create an effective interaction $V = -\lambda \vec{S}_1 \cdot \vec{S}_2$ between neighbouring spins, where λ is a positive number.
 - (a) Compute the energy shifts caused by V . Use the appropriate basis in accordance with degenerate perturbation theory.
 - (b) Consider the set of states with $j = 2$ and $m_j = -j, \dots, j$. Which of these states are eigenstates of $S_{1z}S_{2z}$, and what are the corresponding eigenvalues? For the state(s) that are not eigenstates of $S_{1z}S_{2z}$, compute the expectation value of $S_{1z}S_{2z}$. (Use the table of Clebsch-Gordan coefficients provided.)
 - (c) Use the results of parts (a) and (b) to determine the expectation value of $(S_{1x}S_{2x} + S_{1y}S_{2y})$ in each of the states with $j = 2$.
2. Consider a one-dimensional harmonic oscillator with unperturbed Hamiltonian

$$H_0 = \frac{p^2}{2m} + \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2 x^2, \quad (1)$$

with eigenstates $|n\rangle$ whose energies are $E_n^{(0)} = \hbar\omega(n + 1/2)$. It is subject to a perturbing Hamiltonian

$$H_1 = \lambda x^2. \quad (2)$$

- (a) Compute the first-order energy shift $E_n^{(1)}$ of level n of this harmonic oscillator. You can use the expression for x in terms of raising and lowering operators,

$$x = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2m\omega}}(a + a^\dagger), \quad (3)$$

where $a|n\rangle = \sqrt{n}|n-1\rangle$ and $a^\dagger|n\rangle = \sqrt{n+1}|n+1\rangle$.

- (b) Compute the first-order correction to the energy eigenstates (i.e., find the new eigenstates $|\psi_n\rangle$ in terms of the original eigenstates $|\phi_n\rangle \equiv |n\rangle$).
- (c) Compute the second-order energy shift $E_n^{(2)}$ of level n .
- (d) This problem can be solved exactly by writing

$$H = H_0 + H_1 = \frac{p^2}{2m} + \frac{1}{2}m\omega'^2 x^2. \quad (4)$$

Find ω' in terms of ω and λ and write down the exact perturbed energies E'_n . Do a series expansion of ω' out to second order in λ and check that these terms agree with your results for $E_n^{(1)}$ and $E_n^{(2)}$ found above.

continued...

3. Consider a system of two spin-1 particles. The total angular momentum is $\vec{J} = \vec{S}_1 + \vec{S}_2$.
- (a) Make a table showing the combinations of m_{s1} and m_{s2} that can contribute to each m_j value. What are the allowed values of j ?
 - (b) Write down the state $|j = 2, m_j = 2\rangle$ in terms of the $|m_{s1}, m_{s2}\rangle$ basis states. Show that this state is an eigenstate of the exchange operator P_{12} , which swaps particle 1 for particle 2, and find its eigenvalue. Then use the fact that $[J_{\pm}, P_{12}] = 0$ (first convince yourself that this is true!) to write down the states $|j = 2, m_j = 1\rangle$ and $|j = 2, m_j = -1\rangle$ in terms of the $|m_{s1}, m_{s2}\rangle$ basis states. What can you say about the state $|j = 2, m_j = 0\rangle$ using just the exchange operator?
 - (c) Use orthogonality to write down the state $|j = 1, m_j = 1\rangle$ in terms of the $|m_{s1}, m_{s2}\rangle$ basis states. What is its P_{12} eigenvalue? Use this result to write down the state $|j = 1, m_j = 0\rangle$ in terms of the $|m_{s1}, m_{s2}\rangle$ basis states.
 - (d) Based on your result for part (c), what can you say about the P_{12} eigenvalue of the state $|j = 0, m_j = 0\rangle$?

Formula sheet

Schrödinger equation:

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \Psi(\vec{r}, t) = H\Psi(\vec{r}, t) \quad (5)$$

Energy eigenstates: $H = \vec{p}^2/2m + V(\vec{r})$

$$H\psi(\vec{r}) = E\psi(\vec{r}), \quad \Psi(\vec{r}, t) = \psi(\vec{r}) e^{-iEt/\hbar} \quad (6)$$

Differential operators corresponding to momentum and energy:

$$\vec{p} \rightarrow -i\hbar \vec{\nabla} \quad E \rightarrow i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \quad (7)$$

Harmonic oscillator in 1 dimension:

$$H = \frac{p^2}{2m} + \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2 x^2, \quad H|n\rangle = E_n|n\rangle, \quad E_n = \hbar\omega(n + 1/2) \quad (8)$$

Raising and lowering operators:

$$a|n\rangle = \sqrt{n}|n-1\rangle, \quad a^\dagger|n\rangle = \sqrt{n+1}|n+1\rangle, \quad (9)$$

$$x = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2m\omega}}(a + a^\dagger), \quad p_x = -i\sqrt{\frac{m\omega\hbar}{2}}(a - a^\dagger) \quad (10)$$

Harmonic oscillator in 3 dimensions (isotropic), $H = \vec{p}^2/2m + m\omega^2 \vec{r}^2/2 = H_x + H_y + H_z$: spatial wavefunctions are just the products of the solutions of the 1-dim harmonic oscillator.

$$H|n_1 n_2 n_3\rangle = E_{n_1 n_2 n_3}|n_1 n_2 n_3\rangle, \quad E_{n_1 n_2 n_3} = \hbar\omega(n_1 + n_2 + n_3 + 3/2); \quad (11)$$

the wavefunctions can also be written in terms of the spherical harmonics,

$$\langle \vec{r} | n_r \ell m \rangle = R_{n_r \ell}(r) Y_{\ell m}(\theta, \phi), \quad E_{n_r \ell m} = \hbar\omega(2n_r + \ell + 3/2). \quad (12)$$

Particle in a box (infinite square well), 1 dimensional:

$$\psi_n(x) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{L}} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L}, \quad 0 \leq x \leq L, \quad E_n = \frac{\hbar^2 \pi^2}{2mL^2} n^2 \quad (13)$$

Particle in a box, 3 dimensional, $L \times L \times L$, one corner at the origin:

$$\psi(x, y, z) = \left(\frac{2}{L}\right)^{3/2} \sin \frac{n_1 \pi x}{L} \sin \frac{n_2 \pi y}{L} \sin \frac{n_3 \pi z}{L}, \quad E = \frac{\hbar^2 \pi^2}{2mL^2} (n_1^2 + n_2^2 + n_3^2) \quad (14)$$

Angular momentum:

$$L^2|\ell, m\rangle = \hbar^2 \ell(\ell + 1)|\ell, m\rangle, \quad L_z|\ell, m\rangle = \hbar m|\ell, m\rangle, \quad m_{\max} = \ell \quad (15)$$

$$L_\pm = L_x \pm iL_y, \quad [L^2, L_\pm] = 0, \quad L_\pm|\ell, m\rangle = C_\pm(\ell, m)|\ell, m \pm 1\rangle \quad (16)$$

$$C_+(\ell, m) = \hbar\sqrt{(\ell - m)(\ell + m + 1)}, \quad C_-(\ell, m) = \hbar\sqrt{(\ell + m)(\ell - m + 1)} \quad (17)$$

$$\vec{L} = \vec{r} \times \vec{p} \quad \text{so, e.g., } L_z = xp_y - yp_x. \quad (18)$$

Addition of angular momentum: when $\vec{J} = \vec{L} + \vec{S}$,

$$j = \ell + s, \dots, |\ell - s|, \quad J_z = L_z + S_z, \quad J_\pm = L_\pm + S_\pm \quad (19)$$

Spherical harmonics, up to $\ell = 2$:

$$\begin{aligned}
Y_{00} &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi}} & Y_{\ell m}(-\hat{r}) &= (-1)^\ell Y_{\ell m}(\hat{r}) \\
Y_{11} &= -\sqrt{\frac{3}{8\pi}} \sin \theta e^{i\phi} & Y_{10} &= \sqrt{\frac{3}{4\pi}} \cos \theta & Y_{1,-1} &= \sqrt{\frac{3}{8\pi}} \sin \theta e^{-i\phi} \\
Y_{22} &= \sqrt{\frac{15}{32\pi}} \sin^2 \theta e^{2i\phi} & Y_{21} &= -\sqrt{\frac{15}{8\pi}} \sin \theta \cos \theta e^{i\phi} & Y_{20} &= \sqrt{\frac{5}{16\pi}} (3 \cos^2 \theta - 1) \\
Y_{2,-1} &= \sqrt{\frac{15}{8\pi}} \sin \theta \cos \theta e^{-i\phi} & Y_{2,-2} &= \sqrt{\frac{15}{32\pi}} \sin^2 \theta e^{-2i\phi}
\end{aligned} \tag{20}$$

Pauli principle: under the exchange of any two identical particles, multi-particle wavefunctions are symmetric for bosons (integer spin), antisymmetric for fermions (half-odd-integer spin).

Time-independent perturbation theory:

$$H = H_0 + \lambda H_1, \quad H_0 |\phi_n\rangle = E_n^{(0)} |\phi_n\rangle, \quad H |\psi_n\rangle = E_n |\psi_n\rangle \tag{21}$$

$$E_n = E_n^{(0)} + E_n^{(1)} + E_n^{(2)} + \dots \tag{22}$$

$$E_n^{(1)} = \langle \phi_n | \lambda H_1 | \phi_n \rangle \quad E_n^{(2)} = \sum_{k \neq n} \frac{|\langle \phi_n | \lambda H_1 | \phi_k \rangle|^2}{E_n^{(0)} - E_k^{(0)}} \tag{23}$$

$$|\psi_n\rangle = |\phi_n\rangle + \sum_{k \neq n} \frac{\langle \phi_k | \lambda H_1 | \phi_n \rangle}{E_n^{(0)} - E_k^{(0)}} |\phi_k\rangle + \mathcal{O}(\lambda^2) \tag{24}$$

Degenerate perturbation theory: first find the combinations of states that diagonalize the matrix $\langle \phi_i | \lambda H_1 | \phi_j \rangle$ made up of states degenerate at zeroth order. The eigenvalues of this matrix are $E_n^{(1)}$.

Time-dependent perturbation theory:

$$H_0 |\phi_n\rangle = E_n^{(0)} |\phi_n\rangle, \quad i\hbar \frac{d}{dt} |\psi(t)\rangle = (H_0 + \lambda V(t)) |\psi(t)\rangle \tag{25}$$

$$|\psi(t)\rangle = \sum_n c_n(t) e^{-iE_n^{(0)}t/\hbar} |\phi_n\rangle \tag{26}$$

For $c_k(0) = 1$ and all other $c_n(0) = 0$, to first order in λ the coefficients are

$$c_m(t) = \frac{1}{i\hbar} \int_0^t dt' e^{i\omega_{mk}t'} \langle \phi_m | \lambda V(t') | \phi_k \rangle \tag{27}$$

where $\omega_{mk} = (E_m^{(0)} - E_k^{(0)})/\hbar$. The transition probability is $P_{k \rightarrow m}(t) = |c_m(t)|^2$.

Variational principle: for any wavefunction $|\Psi\rangle$, $\langle \Psi | H | \Psi \rangle \geq E_0 =$ ground state energy of H .

Some math:

Taylor series about $x = 0$:

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} \left. \frac{d^n f}{dx^n} \right|_{x=0} x^n \tag{28}$$

Eigenvalues of a matrix M (I is the unit matrix; solve for λ):

$$\det(M - \lambda \cdot I) = 0 \tag{29}$$

40. 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
⋮	⋮	⋮
⋮	⋮	⋮

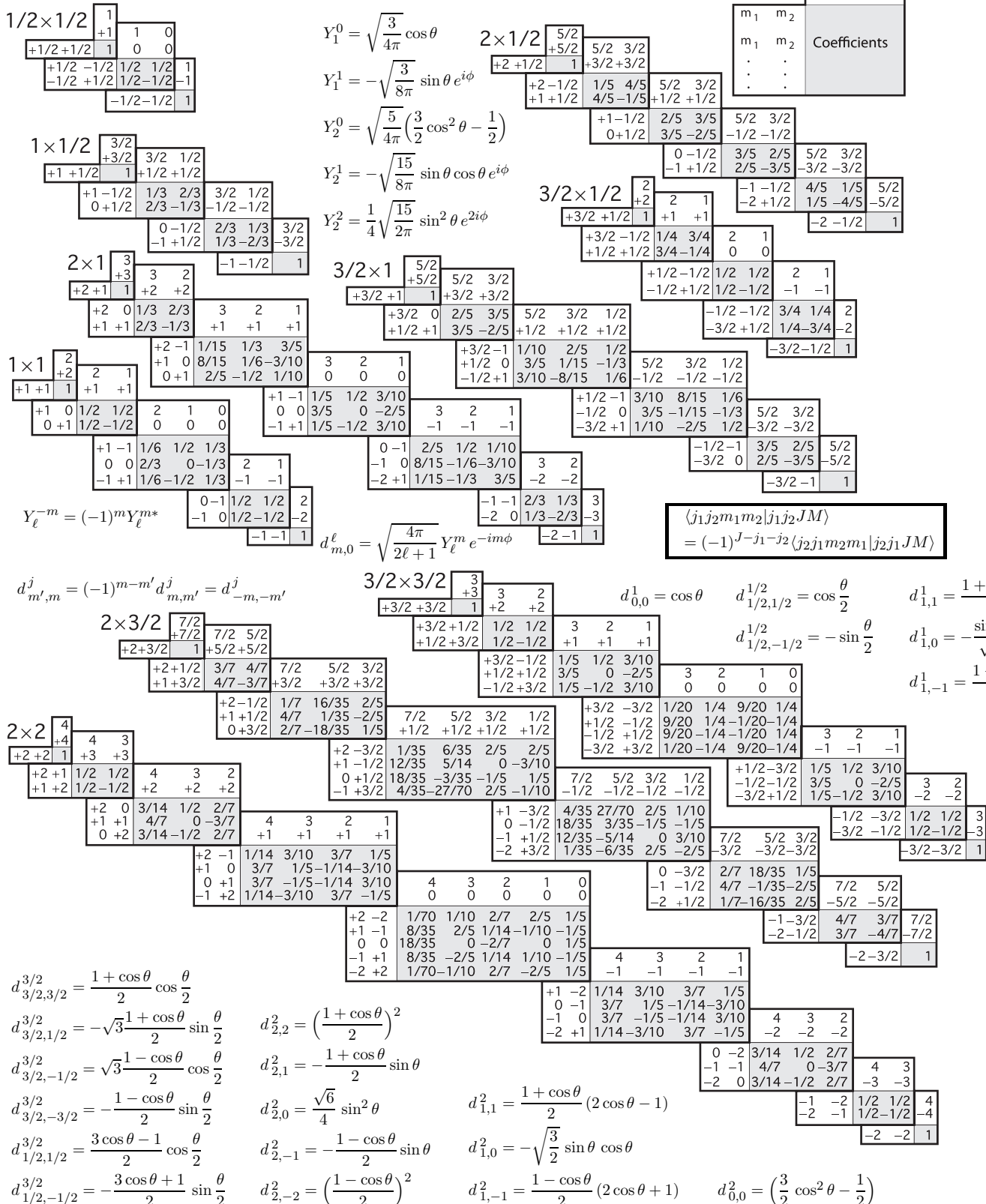


Figure 40.1: The sign convention is that of Wigner (*Group Theory*, Academic Press, New York, 1959), also used by Condon and Shortley (*The Theory of Atomic Spectra*, Cambridge Univ. Press, New York, 1953), Rose (*Elementary Theory of Angular Momentum*, Wiley, New York, 1957), and Cohen (*Tables of the Clebsch-Gordan Coefficients*, North American Rockwell Science Center, Thousand Oaks, Calif., 1974).