

Quantum Mechanics I (PHYS 3143A) Fall 2020

Test 2

Name:

Problem 1

A spin-2 particle is in the state

$$|\psi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}|2, -2\rangle_z + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}|2, -1\rangle_z + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}|2, 2\rangle_z$$

a) (10 points) Evaluate the uncertainty ΔS_z

$$\langle S_z \rangle = (-2\hbar) \cdot \frac{1}{3} + (-\hbar) \cdot \frac{1}{3} + (2\hbar) \cdot \frac{1}{3} = -\frac{2\hbar}{3} - \frac{\hbar}{3} + \frac{2\hbar}{3} = -\frac{\hbar}{3}$$

$$\langle S_z^2 \rangle = (-2\hbar)^2 \cdot \frac{1}{3} + (-\hbar)^2 \cdot \frac{1}{3} + (2\hbar)^2 \cdot \frac{1}{3} = \frac{4\hbar^2}{3} + \frac{\hbar^2}{3} + \frac{4\hbar^2}{3} = \frac{9\hbar^2}{3} = 3\hbar^2$$

$$\Delta S_z = \sqrt{\langle S_z^2 \rangle - \langle S_z \rangle^2} = \sqrt{3\hbar^2 - \left(-\frac{\hbar}{3}\right)^2} = \sqrt{\frac{27\hbar^2}{9} - \frac{\hbar^2}{9}} = \frac{\hbar}{3} \sqrt{26}$$

$$\hat{S}_+ = \hat{S}_x + i\hat{S}_y$$

$$\hat{S}_- = \hat{S}_x - i\hat{S}_y$$

$$\hat{S}_+ - \hat{S}_- = 2i\hat{S}_y$$

$$\hat{S}_y = \frac{1}{2i} (\hat{S}_+ - \hat{S}_-)$$

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

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

b) (25 points) Calculate $\langle \hat{S}_y \rangle$ and $\langle \hat{S}_y^2 \rangle$ for this state and evaluate the uncertainty ΔS_y .

Note: determining the matrix representation of \hat{S}_y operator is not necessary in this problem.

$$\hat{S}_y |4\rangle = \frac{1}{2i} (\hat{S}_+ - \hat{S}_-) \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} |2, -2\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} |2, -1\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} |2, 2\rangle \right) =$$

$$= \frac{1}{2i} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \sqrt{\frac{2(2+1) - (-2)(-2+1)}{2}} \hbar |2, -1\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \sqrt{\frac{2(2+1) - (-1)(-1+1)}{6}} \hbar |2, 0\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \sqrt{\frac{2(2+1) - 2(2+1)}{6}} \hbar |2, ?\rangle \right.$$

$$\left. - \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \sqrt{\frac{2(2+1) - (-1)(-1-1)}{2}} \hbar |2, -2\rangle - \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \sqrt{\frac{2(2+1) - 2(2-1)}{2}} \hbar |2, 1\rangle \right) =$$

$$= \frac{1}{2i} \left(\frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} \hbar |2, -1\rangle + \frac{\sqrt{6}}{\sqrt{3}} \hbar |2, 0\rangle - \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} \hbar |2, -2\rangle - \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} \hbar |2, 1\rangle \right) =$$

$$\hat{S}_y |4\rangle = \frac{\hbar}{2i\sqrt{3}} \left(2|2, -1\rangle + \sqrt{6}|2, 0\rangle - 2|2, -2\rangle - 2|2, 1\rangle \right)$$

$$\langle S_y \rangle = \langle 4 | \hat{S}_y | 4 \rangle = \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \langle 2, -2 | + \langle 2, -1 | + \langle 2, 2 | \right) \frac{\hbar}{2i\sqrt{3}} \left(2|2, -1\rangle + \sqrt{6}|2, 0\rangle - 2|2, -2\rangle - 2|2, 1\rangle \right)$$

$$= \frac{\hbar}{2i\sqrt{3} \cdot \sqrt{3}} (-2 + 2) = 0$$

$$\langle S_y^2 \rangle = \left(\langle 4 | \hat{S}_y \right) \left(\hat{S}_y | 4 \rangle \right) =$$

$$= \frac{\hbar}{-2i\sqrt{3}} \left(2\langle 2, -1 | + \sqrt{6}\langle 2, 0 | - 2\langle 2, -2 | - 2\langle 2, 1 | \right) \frac{\hbar}{2i\sqrt{3}} \left(2|2, -1\rangle + \sqrt{6}|2, 0\rangle - 2|2, -2\rangle - 2|2, 1\rangle \right)$$

$$= \frac{\hbar^2}{4 \cdot 3} (4 + 6 + 4 + 4) = \frac{18\hbar^2}{4 \cdot 3} = \frac{3\hbar^2}{2}$$

$$\Delta S_y = \sqrt{\langle S_y^2 \rangle - \langle S_y \rangle^2} = \sqrt{\frac{3\hbar^2}{2} - 0} = \hbar \sqrt{\frac{3}{2}}$$

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Test 2

Name:

$$\hat{S}_z |s, m\rangle = \hbar m |s, m\rangle$$

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

$$|s, m\rangle$$

Problem 1

A spin-3 particle is in the state $|\psi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}|3,1\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}|3,2\rangle$.

a) (10 points) Calculate $\langle S_z \rangle$ and $\langle S_z^2 \rangle$ for this state and evaluate the uncertainty ΔS_z .

$$\langle S_z \rangle = \hbar \cdot \frac{1}{2} + 2\hbar \cdot \frac{1}{2} = \frac{3\hbar}{2}$$

$$\langle S_z^2 \rangle = \hbar^2 \cdot \frac{1}{2} + (2\hbar)^2 \cdot \frac{1}{2} = \frac{\hbar^2}{2} + \frac{4\hbar^2}{2} = \frac{5\hbar^2}{2}$$

$$\Delta S_z = \sqrt{\langle S_z^2 \rangle - \langle S_z \rangle^2} = \sqrt{\frac{5\hbar^2}{2} - \left(\frac{3\hbar}{2}\right)^2} = \sqrt{\frac{5\hbar^2}{2} - \frac{9\hbar^2}{4}} = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar^2}{4}} = \frac{\hbar}{2}$$

$$\hat{S}_x = \frac{1}{2} (\hat{S}_+ + \hat{S}_-)$$

$$\hat{S}_y = \frac{1}{2i} (\hat{S}_+ - \hat{S}_-)$$

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

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

b) (35 points) Calculate $\langle S_x \rangle$ and $\langle S_x^2 \rangle$ for this state and evaluate the uncertainty ΔS_x . Note: determining the matrix representation of \hat{S}_x operator is not necessary in this problem.

$$\hat{S}_x |4\rangle = \frac{1}{2} (\hat{S}_+ + \hat{S}_-) \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |3, 1\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |3, 2\rangle \right) = \frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \sqrt{\frac{3(3+1) - 1(1+1)}{12 \cdot 2}} \hbar |3, 2\rangle + \right. \\ \left. + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \sqrt{\frac{3(3+1) - 2(2+1)}{12 \cdot 6}} \hbar |3, 3\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \sqrt{\frac{3(3+1) - 1(1-1)}{12 \cdot 0}} \hbar |3, 0\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \sqrt{\frac{3(3+1) - 2(2-1)}{12 \cdot 2}} \hbar |3, 1\rangle \right] =$$

$$\hat{S}_x |4\rangle = \frac{1}{2} \left[\sqrt{5} \hbar |3, 2\rangle + \sqrt{3} \hbar |3, 3\rangle + \sqrt{6} \hbar |3, 0\rangle + \sqrt{5} \hbar |3, 1\rangle \right]$$

$$\langle S_x \rangle = \langle 4 | \hat{S}_x |4\rangle = \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \langle 3, 1 | + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \langle 3, 2 | \right) \frac{\hbar}{2} \left(\sqrt{5} |3, 2\rangle + \sqrt{3} |3, 3\rangle + \sqrt{6} |3, 0\rangle + \sqrt{5} |3, 1\rangle \right) = \\ = \frac{\hbar}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \cdot \sqrt{5} + \frac{\hbar}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \cdot \sqrt{5} = \hbar \sqrt{\frac{5}{2}}$$

$$\langle S_x^2 \rangle = \left(\langle 4 | \hat{S}_x \right) \cdot \left(\hat{S}_x |4\rangle \right) =$$

$$\left(\frac{\hbar}{2} \right) \left(\sqrt{5} \langle 3, 2 | + \sqrt{3} \langle 3, 3 | + \sqrt{6} \langle 3, 0 | + \sqrt{5} \langle 3, 1 | \right) \cdot \frac{\hbar}{2} \left(\sqrt{5} |3, 2\rangle + \sqrt{3} |3, 3\rangle + \sqrt{6} |3, 0\rangle + \sqrt{5} |3, 1\rangle \right) = \\ = \frac{\hbar^2}{4} (5 + 3 + 6 + 5) = \frac{19\hbar^2}{4}$$

$$\Delta S_x = \sqrt{\langle S_x^2 \rangle - \langle S_x \rangle^2} = \sqrt{\frac{19\hbar^2}{4} - \left(\hbar \sqrt{\frac{5}{2}} \right)^2} = \sqrt{\frac{19\hbar^2}{4} - \frac{5\hbar^2}{2 \cdot 2}} = \\ = \sqrt{\frac{9\hbar^2}{4}} = \frac{3\hbar}{2}$$

Problem 2.

The Hamiltonian for a spin-1 particle is represented by the matrix

$$\hat{H}_{S_z \text{ basis}} = \hbar\omega_0 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

A particle is initially in the state

$$|\psi(0)\rangle \xrightarrow{S_z \text{ basis}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

a) (40 points) Determine the state of the system $|\psi(t)\rangle$ at time t in S_z basis.

1) Find eigenvalues of \hat{H} :

$$\det \begin{vmatrix} 1-\lambda & 2 & 0 \\ 2 & 1-\lambda & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2-\lambda \end{vmatrix} = (1-\lambda)(1-\lambda)(2-\lambda) - 2 \cdot 2(2-\lambda) = 0$$

Eigenvalues of \hat{H} :

$2\hbar\omega_0, -\hbar\omega_0, 3\hbar\omega_0$

$$\begin{aligned} (1-\lambda)^2(2-\lambda) - 4(2-\lambda) &= 0 \\ (2-\lambda)((1-\lambda)^2 - 2^2) &= 0 \\ (2-\lambda)(1-\lambda-2)(1-\lambda+2) &= 0 \\ (2-\lambda)(-1-\lambda)(3-\lambda) &= 0 \\ \lambda &= 2, -1, 3 \end{aligned}$$

2) Find eigenstates of \hat{H} :

$|2\hbar\omega_0\rangle: \lambda = 2$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1-2 & 2 & 0 \\ 2 & 1-2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2-2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 2 & 0 \\ 2 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} -x_1 + 2x_2 = 0 &\Rightarrow x_1 = 2x_2 \\ 2x_1 - x_2 = 0 &\Rightarrow 2(2x_2) - x_2 = 0 \Rightarrow 3x_2 = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow x_2 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$|2\hbar\omega_0\rangle \xrightarrow{S_z \text{ basis}} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{1} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} c^*(0,0,1) \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} &= 1 \\ c^*c \cdot (0+0+1) &= 1 \\ |c|^2 &= 1 \\ c &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

$|-1\hbar\omega_0\rangle: \lambda = -1$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1-(-1) & 2 & 0 \\ 2 & 1-(-1) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2-(-1) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 & 0 \\ 2 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$|x_1\rangle \leq |1\rangle$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 2-(-1) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$2x_1 + 2x_2 = 0 \Rightarrow x_1 = -x_2$$

$$3x_3 = 0 \Rightarrow x_3 = 0$$

$$|-k\omega_0\rangle \xrightarrow{S_7 \text{ basis}} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$c^*(1, -1, 0) \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = 1$$

$$c^*c(1+1+0) = 1$$

$$|c|^2 = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$c = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$|3k\omega_0\rangle \quad \lambda = 3$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1-3 & 2 & 0 \\ 2 & 1-3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2-3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} -2 & 2 & 0 \\ 2 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$-2x_1 + 2x_2 = 0 \Rightarrow x_1 = x_2$$

$$-x_3 = 0 \Rightarrow x_3 = 0$$

$$|3k\omega_0\rangle \xrightarrow{S_7 \text{ basis}} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

3) Express $|\psi(0)\rangle$ in the basis of eigenstates of \hat{H}_1 :

$$|\psi(0)\rangle = |2k\omega_0\rangle \underbrace{\langle 2k\omega_0 | \psi(0) \rangle}_0 + |-k\omega_0\rangle \underbrace{\langle -k\omega_0 | \psi(0) \rangle}_{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}} + |3k\omega_0\rangle \underbrace{\langle 3k\omega_0 | \psi(0) \rangle}_{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}}$$

$$\langle 2k\omega_0 | \psi(0) \rangle = (0, 0, 1) \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

$$\langle -k\omega_0 | \psi(0) \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (1, -1, 0) \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$\langle 3k\omega_0 | \psi(0) \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (1, 1, 0) \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$|\psi(0)\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |-k\omega_0\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |3k\omega_0\rangle$$

4) Evolve $|\psi(0)\rangle$

$$|E(t)\rangle = e^{-\frac{iEt}{\hbar}} |E(0)\rangle$$

$$|\psi(t)\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} e^{-\frac{i(-k\omega_0)t}{\hbar}} |-k\omega_0\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} e^{-\frac{i(3k\omega_0)t}{\hbar}} |3k\omega_0\rangle$$

$$|\psi(t)\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} e^{i\omega_0 t} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} e^{-3i\omega_0 t} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

5) Switch to original basis (S_7 basis)

$$|\psi(t)\rangle \xrightarrow{S_7 \text{ basis}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} e^{i\omega_0 t} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} e^{-3i\omega_0 t} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} e^{i\omega_0 t} + e^{-3i\omega_0 t} \\ e^{i\omega_0 t} - e^{-3i\omega_0 t} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= e^{-i\omega_0 t} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{e^{2i\omega_0 t} + e^{-2i\omega_0 t}}{2} \\ \frac{e^{2i\omega_0 t} - e^{-2i\omega_0 t}}{2(-i)} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = e^{-i\omega_0 t} \begin{pmatrix} \cos(2\omega_0 t) \\ -i \sin(2\omega_0 t) \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= e \left(\frac{e^{2i\omega t} + e^{-2i\omega t}}{2(-i)} \right) = \begin{pmatrix} e \cdot \cos(2\omega t) \\ -i \cdot \sin(2\omega t) \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$|\psi(t)\rangle \xrightarrow{S_z \text{ basis}} \begin{pmatrix} \cos(2\omega t) \\ -i \cdot \sin(2\omega t) \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

b) (15 points) Calculate the expectation value $\langle S_x \rangle$ as a function of time.

$$\hat{S}_x \xrightarrow{S_z \text{ basis}} \frac{\hbar}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\langle S_x \rangle = \langle \psi(t) | \hat{S}_x | \psi(t) \rangle = (\cos(2\omega_0 t), i \sin(2\omega_0 t), 0) \cdot \frac{\hbar}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \cos(2\omega_0 t) \\ -i \sin(2\omega_0 t) \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= (\cos(2\omega_0 t), i \sin(2\omega_0 t), 0) \cdot \frac{\hbar}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} -i \sin(2\omega_0 t) \\ \cos(2\omega_0 t) \\ -i \sin(2\omega_0 t) \end{pmatrix} =$$

$$= \frac{\hbar}{\sqrt{2}} \left(\cos(2\omega_0 t) \cdot (-i) \sin(2\omega_0 t) + i \sin(2\omega_0 t) \cdot \cos(2\omega_0 t) + 0 \right)$$

$$= 0$$

$$\langle S_y \rangle = \langle \psi(t) | \hat{S}_y | \psi(t) \rangle = (\cos(2\omega_0 t), i \sin(2\omega_0 t), 0) \cdot \frac{\hbar}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i & 0 \\ i & 0 & -i \\ 0 & i & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \cos(2\omega_0 t) \\ -i \sin(2\omega_0 t) \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} =$$

$$= (\cos(2\omega_0 t), i \sin(2\omega_0 t), 0) \cdot \frac{\hbar}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} -\sin(2\omega_0 t) \\ i \cos(2\omega_0 t) \\ \sin(2\omega_0 t) \end{pmatrix} =$$

$$= \frac{\hbar}{\sqrt{2}} \left(-\cos(2\omega_0 t) \cdot \sin(2\omega_0 t) - \sin(2\omega_0 t) \cos(2\omega_0 t) \right) =$$

$$= -\frac{\hbar}{\sqrt{2}} \cdot \underbrace{2 \cos(2\omega_0 t) \cdot \sin(2\omega_0 t)}_{\sin(4\omega_0 t)} = -\frac{\hbar}{\sqrt{2}} \sin(4\omega_0 t)$$